

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Registration Form

This form is for use in nominating or requesting determinations for individual properties and districts. See instructions in National Register Bulletin, *How to Complete the National Register of Historic Places Registration Form*. If any item does not apply to the property being documented, enter "N/A" for "not applicable." For functions, architectural classification, materials, and areas of significance, enter only categories and subcategories from the instructions. **Place additional certification comments, entries, and narrative items on continuation sheets if needed (NPS Form 10-900a).**

1. Name of Property

historic name Rendleman Orchards

other names/site number _____

Name of Multiple Property Listing _____

(Enter "N/A" if property is not part of a multiple property listing)

2. Location

street & number 9680 State Route 127

☐

not for publication

city or town Alto Pass

☐

vicinity

state Illinois

county Union

zip code 62905

3. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended,

I hereby certify that this ___ nomination ___ request for determination of eligibility meets the documentation standards for registering properties in the National Register of Historic Places and meets the procedural and professional requirements set forth in 36 CFR Part 60.

In my opinion, the property ___ meets ___ does not meet the National Register Criteria. I recommend that this property be considered significant at the following level(s) of significance: ___ **national** ___ **statewide** ___ **local**

Applicable National Register Criteria: ___ **A** ___ **B** ___ **C** ___ **D**

Signature of certifying official/Title: Deputy State Historic Preservation Officer

Date

Illinois Department of Natural Resources - SHPO

State or Federal agency/bureau or Tribal Government

In my opinion, the property ___ meets ___ does not meet the National Register criteria.

Signature of commenting official

Date

Title

State or Federal agency/bureau or Tribal Government

4. National Park Service Certification

I hereby certify that this property is:

___ entered in the National Register

___ determined eligible for the National Register

___ determined not eligible for the National Register

___ removed from the National Register

___ other (explain:) _____

Signature of the Keeper

Date of Action

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5. Classification

Ownership of Property

(Check as many boxes as apply.)

<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	private
<input type="checkbox"/>	public - Local
<input type="checkbox"/>	public - State
<input type="checkbox"/>	public - Federal

Category of Property

(Check only **one** box.)

<input type="checkbox"/>	building(s)
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	district
<input type="checkbox"/>	site
<input type="checkbox"/>	structure
<input type="checkbox"/>	object

Number of Resources within Property

(Do not include previously listed resources in the count.)

Contributing	Noncontributing	
32	8	buildings
0	0	site
2	0	structure
0	0	object
34	8	Total

Number of contributing resources previously
listed in the National Register

6. Function or Use

Historic Functions

(Enter categories from instructions.)

DOMESTIC/single dwelling

AGRICULTURE/processing

AGRICULTURE/storage

Current Functions

(Enter categories from instructions.)

DOMESTIC/single dwelling

AGRICULTURE/processing

AGRICULTURE/storage

7. Description

Architectural Classification

(Enter categories from instructions.)

MID-19TH CENTURY

LATE 19TH AND 20TH CENTURY REVIVAL

OTHER

MIXED

Materials

(Enter categories from instructions.)

foundation: STONE/CONCRETE

walls: ASBESTOS/WOOD/BRICK

roof: ASPHALT/METAL

other:

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Narrative Description

(Describe the historic and current physical appearance and condition of the property. Describe contributing and noncontributing resources if applicable. Begin with a **summary paragraph** that briefly describes the general characteristics of the property, such as its location, type, style, method of construction, setting, size, and significant features. Indicate whether the property has historic integrity).

Summary Paragraph

Rendleman Orchards is an example of a multi-generational family farm in Union County, Illinois. Since 1873, the property has grown from the original 88 acres and residence purchased by John and Isabella Rendleman to over 800 acres of woods, orchards, fields, and buildings that continue to be owned, managed, and operated by the Rendleman Family. The property has 42 buildings and structures, which are divided over five separate properties. Of these, 34 are contributing, including multiple residences and outbuildings. These range in style, date, and method of construction from the middle nineteenth century through the early twentieth century. The farm properties are intact and include examples of architectural, agricultural, and technological changes typical of the nineteenth and twentieth centuries, and together with the orchards, woods, and associated land they represent an agricultural property that has grown over the last 150 years to become one of the largest peach orchards in Illinois.

Narrative Description

SETTING

(See Quadrant Map)

Rendleman Orchards includes nearly 815 acres located at 9680 Illinois Route 127 in Alto Pass, Union County, Illinois, at the northern edge of the county within the Shawnee National Forest. The current boundaries of the property are irregular. The northern boundary is defined by a dirt roadway and woods on the west side of Route 127, and then proceeds to cross 127 to join Landreth Road on the east side. The eastern boundary consists of woods south to Alto Waterworks Road/Cedar Street and then follows that road to the woodline. The southern boundary starts at Alto Waterworks Road/Cedar Street and runs west along the treeline to a farm road. The boundary crosses Route 127 here and heads slightly north on Route 127 to the northern edge of Alto Pass Cemetery, south down the west boundary of the cemetery, then follows a tree line and Cave Creek south and west, then south again along a tree line. It then heads west and terminates at a field corner. The western boundary runs north from here following field edges, indents east along Marks Lane and then heads back west along the rear of some residential properties along the same road. From there the property boundary runs north through woods to connect with the dirt roads and woods that form the northern boundary.

The property contains woods, farm roads, portions of Cave Creek, drainages, ponds, approximately 250 acres of orchards, eight acres of flower fields, and a section of abandoned railroad bed; elevations here can vary dramatically. In addition to these features, the property includes four properties, defined by four distinct clusters of buildings, located on the east and west sides of Route 127. These properties have been separated into the Main Farm, approximately nine acres where the majority of the farm management and processing occurs and where both retail and wholesale is conducted, the Buckingham Property, which is an approximately three-acre residential property, Uncle Auntie's Property, approximately four acres which is used for some housing and storage, and The Deer Camp, which includes approximately five acres for recreation.

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The properties are divided into five groups, based on geographic location within the orchard property. Four of these groups were added as the orchard grew and more properties were acquired to allow for both the expansion of the business and to provide more residential opportunities for the family. In the mid-1970s the landholdings were measurably smaller (see Figure 3). Based on available records, in circa 1975 the property was bounded to the north by a dirt roadway and woods on the west side of Route 127, crossed Route 127 and joined Landreth Road on the east side to terminate in woods. The eastern boundary followed through the woods south to Alto Waterworks Road and continued irregularly through the woods to the southern boundary. The southern boundary lines up with a tree line and a road south of the Alto Pass Cemetery, adjusts further south and then returns to the cemetery road line, crosses Cave Creek, and terminates in a line of trees west of the cemetery. The boundary then turns north to run through woods and join the northern boundary of the property, altogether creating an irregular square of land. Around 1980, Rendleman Orchards sold 2.58 acres of land east of the juncture of Marks Lane and Route 127 to Betty Rendleman's parents. The property no longer remains in the family. It currently has a ranch house and garage, both of which were built outside of the period of significance (ca. 1980s) and are non-contributing buildings.

Landscape Characteristics

Rendleman Orchards is situated within the Shawnee National Forest, and as such includes vast expanses of woods, streams, and portions of Cave Creek, as well as open fields. By nature, this part of the state includes dramatic variations in elevation. The decision by John and Isabelle Rendleman to use the land they purchased to grow fruit - and the success of this orchard - was based on several factors. The rich soils and mild climate in this part of the State are ideal for fruit growing.

Spatial Organization and Vegetation

UGLO Maps for the property, dating to 1810 and 1836, show no improvements on the land that is now owned by Rendleman Orchards.¹ Historic maps available for the property starting in 1881 demonstrate the expansion of the holdings of the family; between 1881 and 1908 the property holdings not only doubled in size, but the maps indicate additional structures.^{2,3} Historic aerials of the property - beginning in 1938 - show a growing collection of buildings and expanding orchard lands consistent with the current layout of the property.⁴

Rendleman Orchards is located on the east and west sides of Illinois Route 127; the land holdings are irregularly shaped but form a rough rectangle with the width running east to west. The holdings can be divided into four properties, defined by four distinct collections of buildings, with three of the properties located to the east of Route 127 and one located to the west. Of the building clusters, three are located adjacent to or nearly adjacent to Route 127, while the fourth - the "Deer Camp" - is located at the northeast

¹ "US Federal Township Plat for Union County, Illinois", Illinois Digital Archives, accessed April 19, 2025, <https://idai.illinois.org/digital/collection/IllinoisPlats/id/3315/rec/91>.

² DJ Lake & Co., *Union County Atlas Map* (DJ Lake & Co. 1881).

³ Geo. A. Ogle & Co., *Union County Atlas Map* (Geo. A. Ogle & Co. 1908).

⁴ "Aerial Maps 1938-1982", Historic Aerials, accessed April 19, 2025, <https://www.historicaerials.com/>.

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corner of the property and away from any main roads. The majority of the 250 acres of orchard land are located in the central and southern sections of the property, with the most northern part including relatively equal parts orchards and woods. The property has grown since the first parcel of land was purchased, but the combined use as a residential and agricultural property has been maintained as land and buildings have been added.

The orchards take up the majority of cleared space within the property and are subdivided by peach and apple variety. Separate orchards are distinguished by field breaks as well as the organization of the trees. The orientation of rows and columns differs in each orchard, but they are all based on the cardinal directions. In addition, the northern part of the property includes eight acres used for flower production. Historic aerial maps show that, although the property has experienced necessary change over the decades, the overall pattern of growing space and orchard arrangement within the property owned by Rendleman Orchards has remained broadly the same. As a result, the historic agricultural character of the landscape has changed very little since the early twentieth century.

The primary land use is for peach orchards and has been almost since the family began settling the property. In addition to the orchards, there are three residential areas that include storage and processing facilities as well as housing, and an area set aside for recreation and hunting. Throughout the late nineteenth and most of the twentieth century the property was focused on fruit production and wholesale business, but a retail store was added in the early twenty-first century. In addition, eight acres is used for flower fields and agritourism.

Circulation

The property is bisected by Route 127 which provides the primary route of transportation into and out of the farm, and also allows for high visibility to the public. Route 127 has followed the same path through this section of Union County at least since 1881.⁵ Historically, this location on a main road would have been a strong advantage for the movement of goods to and from the farm to surrounding communities, and this continues to be the case. In addition, the property includes access to Marks Lane and Lambeth Road, secondary roads which connect to Route 127. There is also a series of dirt and gravel farm roads throughout the entire property, which allow for movement between orchards and sets of buildings, and easy access to the main warehouse and processing facilities.

Buildings and Structures and Clustered Arrangements

The property has 42 buildings and structures, which are divided over five separate areas. The Main Farm is located on the east side of Route 127, near the northern edge of the entire property. This property consists of approximately nine acres of buildings and structures and includes the original 88 acres purchased by the Rendlemans in 1873. This parcel includes 26 buildings and one structure; six of the buildings are non-contributing because they were constructed after 1975 and fall outside of the period of significance. This group of buildings is bound roughly by flower fields to the north, woods to the east, orchards to the south, and Route 127 to the west.

⁵ DJ Lake & Co., *Union County Atlas Map*.

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The Buckingham Property is a collection of six buildings and an abandoned railroad bed located southwest of the Main Farm property at the northwest corner of State Route 127 and Marks Lane. The land that includes the Buckingham Property was purchased by John Rendleman in 1907. The property includes two residential buildings, a garage, a chicken coop, a barn, and a pump house. The Buckingham Property is approximately three acres and is bound to the north by orchards, to the west by woods, to the south by Marks Lane, and to the east by Route 127.

The property known as Uncle Autie's is an approximately four-acre parcel located south of the Main Farm and southeast of the Buckingham property, on the east side of Illinois Route 127. Uncle Autie's is bound to the north and west by orchards, and to the south and east by woods and some open land. The property is accessed via a private drive leading east from Route 127 to the residence and then north to the five outbuildings.

The Deer Camp Property includes approximately five acres of woods at the northeast corner of the Orchard, located on land that was added in the late nineteenth century. This property includes a modern Cabin that was constructed in 1973 for use by the family.

The non-contributing property consists of 2.58 acres of land east of the juncture of Marks Lane and Route 127. The property was sold to non-family members in 2007. It has two non-contributing buildings, a ranch house and garage, which were built outside of the period of significance (ca. 1980s).

The Rendleman property has been slowly built over the past 150 years and includes four very distinct properties. Despite this, the overall land holdings have a sense of continuity and are held together by the open spaces, roads, and orchards that make up the majority of the land. The greatest changes have included the addition of properties and buildings.

The Main Farm

(see Main Farm Area map on page 38 - buildings are numbered and keyed to map)

The Main Farm is located on the east side of Route 127, near the northern edge of the entire property. This parcel consists of approximately nine acres of buildings and structures and includes the original 88 acres purchased by the Rendlemans in 1873. This parcel includes 26 buildings and one structure; six of the buildings are non-contributing and the rest are considered contributing. This group of buildings is bound roughly by flower fields to the north, woods to the east, orchards to the south, and Route 127 to the west.

When the property was purchased, only the residence known as the Rendleman Family Home was present. Over the last 150 years, additional residences, various agricultural outbuildings, and a farm market have been added to the property, significantly altering the original landscape of the farm. The majority of these buildings, however, were added during the period of significance (1873-1975), and are considered contributing. The more modern buildings that have been constructed since 1975 are crucial to the running of the business and are not considered to detract from the significance and integrity of the property as a whole.

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Primary access to the property is by way of two driveways leading into a large parking lot at the front of the property. In addition, the property can be accessed from the north by a road leading south off of Landreth Road and from the south by an unnamed farm road. The buildings are clustered fairly close together; there are no elaborate gardens or landscaping features, and aerial maps suggest that has historically been the case. Open space surrounding the buildings typically has several large trees. The flower fields abut the buildings to the north, and orchards come right up to the buildings to the south. A concrete walkway leads to the Family Home and other adjacent buildings. Much of the central area of buildings is paved with asphalt, and there are dirt farm roads running to the north and south of the property.

CONTRIBUTING (Main Farm)**1. Rendleman Family Home (ca. 1873)****Exterior:**

The Rendleman Family Home is a 1½ story Gabled Ell residence that sits on a cement-faced field stone foundation and measures approximately 77'x60'. The house faces west towards Route 127 and has wide compressed fiber asbestos tile siding. The roof covering is diagonal compressed fiber shingles. The west facade includes a single-story front L-shaped porch. The porch has a brick half-wall and three square brick support columns in addition to two square timber support columns. The porch roof is made up of two pyramidal shaped extensions of the main gabled roof. Entry to the porch is adjacent to the gable end of the residence, or at the southern end of the porch. There are four 20-paned crank windows at the first-floor level, including one facing west on the gabled section, one facing south on the gabled section, and two facing west on the ell section. Entry to the residence is by way of two doors located at the northeast corner of the junction of the gable and the ell – one on the south side and one on the west side of the house. The gabled section also has a 4/4 double hung window in the upper gable.

The north face of the residence includes the gabled end of the ell and a rear/eastern single-story extension. The gabled end has a bay window consisting of three 10-paned crank sections flanked by 10 pane windows on the east and west sides. The gable has Greek Revival style cornice returns at the roofline and a single louvered window vent in the gable. The single-story extension includes a central enclosed porch and fully enclosed eastern end. The porch has a brick ¼ wall with three small brick pillars with square caps; it sits on a concrete foundation. The upper section of the porch is made up of three six-paneled screened sections and two doors. There are two screened sections on the west side of the first door, a central screened section, and a second door at the junction of the porch and eastern end. The entry doors to the porch have two vertical screened upper sections and a nine-panel bottom section; they are crowned by screened transom openings. Within the porch is a door on the east side of the ell extension and two doors on the south side of the rear extension which flank a 10-pane crank window. The enclosed eastern end includes one central six-paned window. Two brick chimneys are visible from this side – one is centrally located on the gable and one is at the east end to the south of the gable.

The eastern or rear side of the house includes three sections: a southern gable, a small central enclosed entry space, and a northern gabled section. The south gable faces east and includes a brick chimney that extends up the side and above the gable and a window consisting of three six-paneled crank sections. The

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enclosed entry space includes a south-facing multi-paned glass door as well as small a 4x4 window and a shed-roof. The northern third is the side of a north facing gable and includes a central 4/4 double hung window.

The north side of the residence includes two north-facing gables flanking a central space, as well as the side of the gabled section of the ell. The eastern gable has a single central 3/3 window. The western gable has a central window consisting of three 10-paned crank sections and a louvered window/vent in the gable. The central space is a single story with no gable; there are two 4/5 crank windows and a central single-pane picture window. The central section has a metal roof. There is a single 4/5 crank window on the side of the gabled section of the ell.

Interior:

(see building footprint page 39)

The cellar measures 18'x16' – it is one unfinished room. The walls are stacked creek rock faced with concrete.

The residence is entered by way of the 10-pane wood and glass door on the west face of the house. The entry is into the living room, which extends into both the gabled end and ell part of the residence. The floor is wood board. There is a small simple two-panel wood door on the west wall north of the main door; this door leads to a room at the northwest corner of the house. On the east wall is a wide square opening that leads to bedroom #1, and on the south wall is a similar opening that leads to bedroom #2. Trim around windows and doors is simple unadorned wood trim. Unless otherwise noted, throughout the house the floors are wood board, the ceilings are beadboard, and the trim around doors and windows is simple unadorned wood trim.

In the northwest corner of the house, which is in the gable end of the ell, is a square bedroom. There are windows on the north and west walls and doors on the east and south walls.

South of the living room is a bedroom that is accessed by way of glass-paned double doors. This room includes a bay window on the south side, a window on the west side that looks out onto the front porch, and a door on the east side that leads to the enclosed side porch. The bay window space is surrounded by the same simple wood trim present throughout the house.

North of the living room is a small bedroom, accessed by a single door. There is a window on the north wall and a door on the west wall. This room, along with the others described above, make up the original Gabled Ell section of the residence. All other rooms are part of numerous rear additions to the house.

Bedroom #1 is accessed by way of the door from the living room; this room is located east of the Living room and a window on the south wall looks out onto the enclosed side porch. The floor is covered with vinyl tile. A door on the north wall leads to another bedroom. This room has a window on the north wall. Another door on the east wall leads to an office. This room has a carpeted floor. A door and window on the south wall lead to the enclosed side porch, and a door on the east wall leads to the kitchen.

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The kitchen is located at the east end of the house. A window over the sink on the east wall looks out into the backyard. There is a door on the south wall that leads to a bathroom at the southeast corner of the house as well as a door on the south wall that leads to the enclosed side porch. The kitchen has early twentieth century built-in cabinets and modern appliances. The floor is linoleum. The small bathroom at the southeast corner has a large built-in cabinet and modern fixtures.

Northwest of the kitchen is a sitting room accessed by way of the office. There are two windows on the north wall and a door at the southeast corner. The floor is carpeted. The door leads to an extension at the northeast corner of the house that includes three small rooms for laundry and storage. These rooms were once a summer kitchen and are built up against the exterior east wall and these rooms are unfinished, with wood board walls and shelves and a concrete floor. There is an exterior entry to the cellar within this space.

Family records suggest that the residence began as a 4-room log cabin in the middle nineteenth century that was present on the property when the family acquired it in 1873. It was added onto over time, eventually taking on the Gabled Ell shape. Anderson crank windows were installed in circa 1940, which is also when the kitchen and bathroom were added.

2. Log House (ca. 1850)

The Log House is a gable roofed 1½ story structure situated at the northern end of the main property. The core of this building is a log house dating to the middle nineteenth century. The main building measures approximately 22'x51.5' with a side slab addition (24'x8') and front porch addition (9'x14.25'). Visible log framing indicates the original structure was constructed with planked hewn logs and square notching was employed; the foundation is stacked creek rock. There is some existing chinking visible. The house is currently covered in clapboard siding. The building has a brick chimney that is not original to the structure, a metal roof, and 6/6 double hung windows.

3. Ren and Betty's House (ca. 1963)

Ren and Betty's House is a gable roofed Ranch house constructed circa 1963. The building, measuring 32'x52', is located just north of the main cluster of buildings on the property. The house faces west towards State Route 127. The residence has 1/3 height stone facing and an upper section of vinyl siding, with a cement foundation and an asphalt shingle roof. The front door is modern with a modern glass outer door. Windows are 1/1 double hung; the windows have modern decorative shutters. The wide front entry porch is a modern timber deck with a low timber railing and two sets of steps leading down to the west and south. There is a wide brick full chimney located on the south side of the house just west of the gable peak. There is a gabled vinyl sided carport to the north of the residence.

The front entry leads into an entry hall. From here, the open plan house includes a large living room and dining room with wood floors, and a modern kitchen with linoleum flooring and contemporary cabinets and appliances. A hallway leads to three bedrooms and a bathroom; the hall and bedrooms have wood floors, and the bathroom floor is ceramic tile. There is simple wood trim around the windows and doorways. Interior doors are 6-panel wood doors. The residence has a full basement.

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4. Seasonal Worker House #1 (ca. 1900)

Worker House #1 is a front gabled, single story, clapboard residential building (36'x17') located northwest of the main cluster of farm buildings on this property, and west of Ren and Betty's House. This building faces south. The residence has clapboard siding and a tin roof. The south face includes a central entry door with original screen door and a full front porch with a tin shed roof and thin round metal porch supports; this porch is on a concrete slab. The east side includes two windows and an entry door. There is a shed roofed entry porch over the door with square timber supports and a concrete slab. The north side has no windows or doors, The west side has three windows.

The interior is mostly featureless, but the two rooms include beadboard on the ceiling and walls and a wood floor. Windows are 4/4 double hung and appear to be original to the building.

5. Outdoor Kitchen (ca. 1900)

The Outdoor Kitchen is a 12'x20' open shelter supported by log poles set on a wooden base and set on concrete blocks. The shelter includes a brick outdoor oven/chimney. This structure has been on the farm since the early twentieth century.

6. Canning House (ca. 1900)

The Canning House is a small gable roofed shed (12'x20') located behind the main house, dating to the early twentieth century. It began as a smokehouse where home-killed meat was preserved for future use then, cans or jars for canning food were stored there. The building includes board and batten siding and a corrugated metal roof.

7. Pump House (ca. 1900)

The Pump House is a small (9.5'x9.5') shed-roofed structure with clapboard siding located behind the main house, dating to the early twentieth century. The structure houses a deep well for the farm that is still in use today.

8. Old Chicken Coop (ca. 1900)

The Chicken Coop is a two-story building that has a shed roof and a single-story lean-to addition (23'x40'), located behind the main house and originally used for poultry and constructed in the early twentieth century. The building currently has corrugated metal siding and a metal roof and is now used for storage.

9. Office/Playhouse (ca. 1946)

The Office/Playhouse is a one and a half story Side Gabled residential building (24'x28') with a full concrete front porch (8'x28'). Located east of the Family Home, the Playhouse faces west and is approached by a gravel driveway shared with the main house. The west face of the house has three doors - the only exterior doors- all of which face out onto the entry porch; the porch has a shed roof supported by timber pillars with brick bases. These doors are original wood doors with square windows on the upper half and three

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horizontal wood panels. One has a screen door. Set between the north and central door and central and south door are single plan double hung windows. The north side includes two double hung windows on the first floor and one in the gable, as well as a full brick chimney to the west of the gable. The east side has two windows, and the south side has three. The foundation is poured concrete. Windows are mostly double-hung multi-pane windows that are original to the building.

Now used as office space, the interior is divided into three rooms on the main floor and an open finished attic space, which features a central stairway and a tin ceiling. All walls are original fiber paneling. The floors and first floor ceilings are wood board. Trim around doors and windows is simple unadorned. Interior doors are original heavy wood doors.

10. Brick House (ca. 1928)

The Brick House is located directly south of the Playhouse and faces west towards the rear of the Farm Market. The house, constructed in circa 1928, is a rectangular buff-colored brick residence (58'x15'). The west half of the residence has a hipped roof with a central chimney, while the east half has a flat roof; roofing is diagonal compressed fiber shingles. The foundation is concrete block. The east side has a walkout basement; the ground around the entry is supported by large, formed cement retaining walls that extend at a diagonal from either corner of the house. The basement exterior wall, door, and window are new. Windows on the building are double hung single pane, and doors are a mix of original wood doors and modern replacements. The interior is three rooms long, all have wood floors. All three rooms have a tin ceiling.

11. Cook House (ca. 1900)

The Cook House is a single-story frame building (22'x40') with steel siding and roofing located behind the Machine Shop. Constructed in circa 1900, this building was originally used as a blacksmith shop but was remodeled in circa 1965 to serve as a kitchen for seasonal workers. The interior includes a poured concrete floor, timber ceiling, modern lighting, and metal interior walls.

12. Bath House (ca. 1960)

The Bath House (13.5'x20') is a shed roofed building with corrugated metal siding constructed in circa 1960. This building, located behind the Machine Shop and Old Packing Shed, serves as bathroom facilities for farm workers; facilities are modern.

13. Motel (ca. 1962)

The Motel is a corrugated metal sided side-gabled pole frame building (24'x80') located to the east of the Old Packing Shed and storage sheds. The Motel faces west towards Route 127. This building constructed circa 1962, provides housing for seasonal workers and storage. The interior is composed of plain dorm style sleeping quarters. Each of the 12 rooms has its own entry door and window, and there are two rolling garage-style doors on the north side .

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14. Machine Shop (ca. 1900)

The Machine Shop is a gabled storage building/workshop (48'x22.5') with a roll-up garage door at the gable end and corrugated metal siding. This building was constructed in the early 20th century and is located next to the Old Packing Shed.

15. Old Packing Shed (ca. 1900)

The Old Packing Shed (100'x46') is a wood-framed gabled outbuilding with a wide gable-end opening used for fruit sorting and packing from the early 1900s through 1962. This building, dating to the early twentieth century, is located directly east and slightly north of the more modern packing shed, running mostly parallel to each other. Mid- twentieth century additions to the building include a center front gabled area and shed roofed additions on the north and south ends. The Old Packing Shed is a solid oak wood barn type structure with a large upper loft. The west side of this building still has the wooden drop down "windows" once used to offer a breeze to those packing fruit. Since 1962, the Old Packing Shed has primarily been used for storage, retail inventory and additional employee restrooms.

16. Coolers 1&2 (ca. 1972)

Metal pole building (42'x120' with addition 31'x15.5') located at the southern end of the main farm, housing two large coolers, constructed circa 1972.

17. New Packing Shed (ca. 1962)

This is a large metal pole building (200'x70') on a raised concrete foundation. This was constructed circa 1962 for increased processing space.

18. Long House (ca. 1900)

The Long House is a Side Gabled building (16'x57') with molded block style metal panel siding and a corrugated metal roof, dating to circa 1900. This is a simple wood frame building with three rooms. Family records suggest it was moved to the main property from an adjacent purchased property in the early twentieth century, to help house seasonal workers for a few weeks each year. The building is now used for box and packaging storage.

19. Seasonal Worker House #2 (ca. 1900)

This is a front gabled one-story frame residence (16'x28'), faces south and is located on the west side of Route 127, across from the main farm. This residence has clapboard siding and a tin roof. The south face includes a full front porch slab with a shed roof; porch supports are square timbers resting on the slab. There is a central door on this side. The east side has one double hung window. The north side includes two double hung windows – one at the gable end and one in a shed-roofed addition that extends to the

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west. This small extension has a combination of horizontal clapboard siding and vertical boards. There is a solid wood door on the south side. The interior includes wood paneled walls and ceiling. The trim around doors and windows is simple wood and includes a mix of rough wood and finished boards.

20. Seasonal Worker House #3 (ca. 1920)

This is a side-gabled single story frame residence (24'x28'), located at the southern end of the Main Farm. This house faces west towards Route 127. The building has a metal roof and pressed metal siding, and a poured concrete foundation. There is a central brick chimney. The west face includes a shed-roofed entry porch supported by square wood columns that rest on brick bases, set on a poured concrete slab. The central front door has two horizontal panels in the lower half and a modern double hung window in the top. There are two modern double-hung windows on this side on either side of the door. The south side has two modern double hung windows. The east side mirrors the west side, with a shed-roofed entry porch and door flanked by double hung windows; the south window is modern, the north window is a 6/6 older early twentieth century style. The east door has an old five-panel screen door and a modern solid wood entry door. The north side has two modern double-hung windows at first floor level and a 6/4 double hung window in the gable peak. The interior includes mixed materials on floors, walls, and ceilings, most of which is not original to the structure. Floors are wood or linoleum, the ceilings have tin plates, and the trim around doors and windows are mostly lined casings with corner rosettes.

21. Rental House (ca. 1940)

This is a side gabled one-story frame residence (42'x24') located directly across Route 127 from Seasonal Worker House #3 and faces east towards the road. The building has a metal roof and pressed metal siding, and there is a small addition on the south side. The east face includes a shed-roofed entry porch supported by square wood columns that rest on brick bases, set on a poured concrete slab. The central front door includes a multi-paned exterior door and a main door with two upper vertical windows and two lower vertical wood panels. There are two 6/6 double-hung windows on this side on either side of the door. There are decorative shutters on either side of both windows. The north side has two 6/6 double-hung windows at first floor level and a 6/6 double hung window in the gable peak. The west side has a shed-roofed entry porch and door; this door has three lower horizontal panels and a multi-paned upper. The porch has one square column support at the northwest corner, and the south side is supported by a bracket on the southern addition to the house. The rear porch is a modern wood deck with no railing. There is a 6/6 double-hung window to the north of the door, and a modern double hung window on the south addition. The south side has two 6/6 double-hung windows as well as a single-pane window at basement level. There is a single-bay pole building garage to the north of the residence. The interior is a mix of modern and historical materials. Floors are wood or vinyl and the ceilings are acoustic tile.

27. Filling Station (ca. 1900)

The Filling Station is a small building (17'x20') with a porch measuring (4.75'x10.5') located north of the main group of buildings. The building has a hipped asphalt shingle roof, corrugated metal siding, and multi-paned double-hung windows. The small front entry porch sits on a poured concrete stoop and is supported by two thin support columns. Farm records suggest this building was moved from the town of Alto Pass to the farm in the 1920s. It is currently used as storage.

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NON-CONTRIBUTING (Main Farm)

22. Farm Market (ca. 2000)

Metal Pole building constructed in circa 2000 to house main farm retail business.

23. Cooler 3/Storage (ca. 1980)

Metal Pole building constructed in circa 1980 for storage.

24. Equipment Shed #1 (ca. 1990)

Metal and wood pole building/machine shed constructed in circa 1990.

25. Equipment Shed #2 (ca. 1990)

Meta and wood pole building/machine shed constructed in circa 1990.

26. Equipment Shed #3 (ca. 2000)

Metal and wood pole building/machine shed constructed in circa 2000.

Buckingham Property

The Buckingham Property is a collection of six buildings and an abandoned railroad bed located southwest of the Main Farm property at the northwest corner of State Route 127 and Marks Lane. The land that includes the Buckingham Property was purchased by John Rendleman in 1907. The property includes two residential buildings, a garage, a chicken coop, a barn, and a pump house. The Buckingham Property is approximately three acres and is bound to the north by orchards, to the west by woods, to the south by Marks Lane, and to the east by Route 127. Access to the property is by county road, Marks Lane on the west side of State Route 127, or north off of Marks Lane. The main house, garage, coop, and pump house are located directly off Marks Lane, with a barn slightly to the west. Another residence is located to the north of these buildings, just west of Route 127. Historically this property included the cluster of buildings and woods, surrounded by orchards, and that is how it continues today. The Main House and four associated outbuildings were all added during the period of significance (1873-1975) and are considered Contributing. A newer residence at the northern end of the property was constructed in 1980 and is considered non-contributing.

CONTRIBUTING (Buckingham Property)

(see Buckingham Property map on page 39 - buildings are numbered and keyed to map)

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28. Buckingham Main House (ca. 1900)

The Main House is located north of Marks Lane and faces east towards Route 127 and a small farm road. This is a single-story frame Side Gabled residence constructed in circa 1900, with two modern additions. The foundation is fieldstone, with an added poured concrete foundation. The house has a mix of aluminum and modern vinyl siding, the roof is asphalt. There are modern vinyl shingles in the gable ends.

The front or east face is a full porch constructed of concrete block foundation walls and timber uppers. Entry is by way of a set of cement steps with stepped block walls with cement sills on either side, offset from the center to the north. The rest of the face of this section includes a set of three double-hung windows to the south, then two sets of two flanking the door to the south and north. The south and north sides of the porch each have a set of three windows. The porch roof is an extension of the main gable and has wide eaves.

The north side of the house is divided into three sections: the gable end of the main section of the building, a rectangular gabled extension to the north, and the north side of a western extension. The gabled end includes two 6/6 double hung windows. The northern extension forms the central part of the house and includes a small 2x2 window at the east side junction to the house and a 6/6 double hung window. There is a modern attic vent at the gable end. There is a double-hung window on the west side of the extension and a door that leads inside from a large modern deck located at the northwest corner of the residence.

The west side of the house includes an addition that extends to the west. There is a modern door on the north side leading from the deck into this addition, as well as a run of three 2x2 windows. The addition on the west side includes three sections, each with a string of 2x2 windows at the roof/wall junction. The center section also has a lower walk out with a modern double French door. This leads out into a sunken cement patio, with steps up to the south.

There is a large modern timber deck at the southwest corner of the residence. Two gabled sections of the west addition look out onto this deck, both have a set of three modern double-hung windows. There is a door on the east face of this addition that leads out onto the deck. The center portion of the south side includes a modern entry at the gabled end, which consists of a door flanked by modern double hung windows, as well as a 3/3 window to the west. There is a modern timber pergola over the entryway, and the deck extends to the gable end of the eastern portion of the house. The final part of the residence includes the main gabled end of the house and the south side of the porch. There are two 6/6 double hung windows on the gable end, flanking a wide brick chimney that runs up through the gabled end.

The basement of the house is divided into two sections: the original or east half is composed of stacked field stone. The newer section under the modern addition/west half is poured concrete and is finished. The finished space includes a bathroom and living space and a walk out to the sunken patio on the west side of the house.

Entry to the house through the front porch is on the east side. The front porch interior includes a wood floor and beadboard ceiling. This leads into the Living Room, which has wood floors, beadboard ceiling, and simple plain trim around windows and doors and crown molding. Moving west from the Living Room is the

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Dining Room, which has wood floors and beadboard ceiling as well as beadboard wainscoting. There is a modern bathroom and office space to the north of the Dining and Living Room spaces. To the west of the Dining Room is the Kitchen, which is modern but includes a beadboard ceiling and breakfast nook, as well as built-in cabinets. The floor is modern ceramic tile. To the north of the Kitchen is a hallway that leads to the northern extension – this space includes a bedroom on the west side, two bedrooms on the north side, and a laundry and bathroom on the east side. Bedroom floors, ceilings, doors and windows are modern late twentieth century. The western addition is a large modern living space.

The large single-story wing was added to the west and north in 1970, and then the second wing with a walk-out basement was added to the south and west in 2012, as was the large deck area.

29. Buckingham Garage (ca. 1900)

The Garage is a small gabled single crib barn with a modern garage door and a shed extension located just northwest of the main residence. The building currently has corrugated metal siding and roofing.

30. Buckingham Coop (ca. 1900)

The Coop is a small gabled shed with a small extension constructed in the early 1900s. Like the Garage, this building has corrugated metal siding and roofing, as well as multi-paned windows. This building is located north of the garage.

31. Buckingham Barn (ca. 1900)

Traditionally called the Buckingham Barn, the main outbuilding on the Buckingham property is a banked gabled machine shed dating to the early 1900s, with 5 bays and a hayloft located to the west of the main cluster of buildings. The barn has vertical board siding and sits on a limestone foundation with a concrete cap. The bays are open to the east, and an earthen ramp leads to a former (now boarded) entry on the west side. The building has a corrugated metal roof.

32. Buckingham Pump House (ca. 1900)

The Buckingham Pump House is a small square shed-roofed building located northeast of the main residence, dating to the early 1900s. It has a formed concrete foundation and asbestos siding.

33. Railroad Bed (feature - numbered for mapping purposes)

To the west of the residence and outbuildings, the property includes the remnants of a railroad bed, originally part of the Illinois Central Railroad, that ran through the property and into Alto Pass. The bed is now a path through a heavily wooded area. The portion owned by the Rendleman family runs from this parcel north and along the west side of the Main Farm.

NON-CONTRIBUTING (Buckingham Property)**34. Block House (ca. 1980)**

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The Block House, located north of the main cluster of buildings, is a concrete block front gabled residence constructed in circa 1980, and formerly used as a house for seasonal workers.

Uncle Autie's Property

The property known as Uncle Autie's is an approximately four-acre parcel located south of the Main Farm and southeast of the Buckingham property, on the east side of Illinois Route 127. Uncle Autie's is bound to the north and west by orchards, and to the south and east by woods and some open land. The property is accessed via a private drive leading east from Route 127 to the residence and then north to the five outbuildings. This property was added in circa 1907. This area has been without any sort of decorative landscaping. All of the buildings included in Uncle Autie's Property were constructed and/or moved to the property within the period of significance and are all therefore considered Contributing.

CONTRIBUTING (Uncle Autie's Property)

(see Uncle Autie's Property map on page 40 - buildings are numbered and keyed to map)

35. Uncle Autie's Seasonal Worker House (ca. 1940)

The building known as Uncle Autie's Seasonal Worker House is located at the end of a drive path at the south end of the property and faces north. This is a square concrete block residence with molded tin siding and a pyramidal roof, constructed in circa 1940. The residence has a small covered front porch with a concrete slab floor, and a wood-framed addition with vinyl siding. There is also a small covered back porch with a concrete slab floor. The doors and double hung windows are modern. The roof is corrugated metal. The interior of the house has been modernized.

36. The Doctors House (ca. 1900)

The Doctors House, located in the center of the property, is a small Front Gabled one-room building with molded metal siding and a metal roof. The foundation is creek rock. This building, constructed in circa 1900, was moved to the property from town in circa 1930-40 and is used for storage.

37. Pole Barn Shed (ca. 1900)

The Pole Barn Shed, located in the northwest of the cluster of buildings, is an open plan machine shed constructed in the early 1900s. It has a gabled roof supported by timber posts. This building is located at the northwest corner of the property.

38. Uncle Autie's Barn (ca. 1900)

The main barn on the property, located at the southeast corner of the cluster of outbuildings, is a partially collapsed hay barn dating to the early 1900s. The barn, which is located to the north of the main house, has vertical board siding and a metal roof, with some corrugated metal siding at the gable.

39. Uncle Autie's Packing Shed (ca. 1900)

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The packing shed, located north of the main barn, is a gabled building with shed extensions on either side. It is supported by large square beams on cement footings which allow the building to be elevated off the ground. This building, constructed in the early 1900s, has vertical board siding with some corrugated metal, a high gable, and a metal roof. It is located at the northeast corner of the property.

40. Sweet Potato Barn (40)

The Sweet Potato barn is a small gabled building located to the east of the main cluster of buildings on this property. This building, constructed in the early 1900s, has vertical board siding and a heavy board floor supported by timber beams.

Deer Camp

The Deer Camp Property includes approximately five acres of woods at the northeast corner of the Orchard, located on land that was added in the late nineteenth century. This property includes a modern Cabin that was constructed in 1973 for use by the family.

CONTRIBUTING (Deer Camp)

(see Deer Camp map on page 41 - buildings are numbered and keyed to map)

41. Deer Camp Cabin (ca. 1973)

The Deer Camp is a property dedicated to hunting, located to the northeast of the Main Farm. The property is located in the woods and accessed by way of private drives, and includes a cabin constructed in circa 1973. The cabin is a steel and timber open-plan pole type building, divided into two sections, both with a metal shed roof. Siding is vertical board/outdoor siding panels. The interior includes wood board floors and ceiling cover.

Non-contributing Property

(see Non-contributing Property map on page 42)

This consists of a one-story, frame, side-gabled ranch house with a detached, side-gabled, frame, two-car garage. The 30' x 80' residence has a 6'x 28' open masonry front porch with a shed roof.

Property Integrity

The Rendleman Orchards property retains a high level of integrity and represents a multi-generational family farm that has followed the progress and innovations of the nineteenth and twentieth centuries. Overall, the property includes five separate parcels that together have 36 buildings and six farm structures; of these, 34 are considered contributing and 8 are non-contributing. This assessment is based on the dates of significance, which include the years 1873, when the first property was purchased, to 1975, which is the 50-year cut off for significance for the National Register. All 34 contributing structures fit within these

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parameters. It can be demonstrated that Rendleman Orchards retains some level of integrity when considering each of the seven aspects.

Rendleman orchards show integrity of location and setting. The main buildings and orchard are located on the same property purchased by John and Isabella Rendleman in 1873. Any changes to the property have been the result of expansion and adding orchards and buildings. A review of historic aerials starting in 1938 shows the growth of the orchard, expanding outward from the central Main Farm and working within the terrain of the Shawnee Hills. While the layout of the land and orchards has evolved with expansion of land holdings and business over the last 150 years, Rendleman Orchards retains integrity of design - the clusters of buildings have formed the cores around which the orchards have been laid out, and those have not changed in ways that would alter their significance.

Many of the residences and outbuildings on the property retain some degree of architectural integrity. The layout of the buildings reflects the evolution and adaptation of the family and business as both grew throughout the nineteenth and twentieth centuries. The earliest building on the property is the Rendleman Family Home. This residence is believed to have started as a log cabin on the property and was present when John and Isabella Rendleman purchased it in 1873. Since that time, it has undergone various stages of upgrades, including additions in the early twentieth century. This building represents a late nineteenth and early twentieth century farmhouse and that design and the materials used to achieve it are still extant. There are multiple residences and outbuildings on the four parcels that represent a variety of materials and architectural styles. Some have remained mostly untouched, but many have had some level of modernization.

Despite, and to a degree because of, late twentieth and early twenty-first century additions and modifications, Rendleman Orchards continues to project the feeling of an established family run farm in Southern Illinois. Each of these parts may not be individually eligible for listing on the register, but taken as a whole the Orchard property demonstrates the changes over generations that were required to keep a family business growing to become one of the largest fruit growers in Illinois.

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8. Statement of Significance**Applicable National Register Criteria**

(Mark "x" in one or more boxes for the criteria qualifying the property for National Register listing.)

- ☒ A Property is associated with events that have made a significant contribution to the broad patterns of our history.
- ☐ B Property is associated with the lives of persons significant in our past.
- ☐ C Property embodies the distinctive characteristics of a type, period, or method of construction or represents the work of a master, or possesses high artistic values, or represents a significant and distinguishable entity whose components lack individual distinction.
- ☐ D Property has yielded, or is likely to yield, information important in prehistory or history.

Criteria Considerations (Mark "x" in all the boxes that apply.)

Property is:

- ☐ A Owned by a religious institution or used for religious purposes.
- ☐ B removed from its original location.
- ☐ C a birthplace or grave.
- ☐ D a cemetery.
- ☐ E a reconstructed building, object, or structure.
- ☐ F a commemorative property.
- ☐ G less than 50 years old or achieving significance within the past 50 years.

Areas of Significance

(Enter categories from instructions.)

AGRICULTURE

COMMERCE

Period of Significance

1873-1974

Significant Dates

N/A

Significant Person

(Complete only if Criterion B is marked above.)

Cultural Affiliation (if applicable)**Architect/Builder**

John Rendleman

Grover Rendleman

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Statement of Significance Summary Paragraph (Provide a summary paragraph that includes level of significance, applicable criteria, justification for the period of significance, and any applicable criteria considerations).

Rendleman Orchards is eligible for listing in the National Register of Historic Places under Criterion A for Agriculture and Commerce. The property is important as a successful, multi-generational orchard business in Union County. The family farm has evolved and adapted to a changing agricultural landscape, withstood fluctuations in the national economy, and became one of the largest peach producers in Illinois. The business has maintained a level of consistency and growth for over 150 years, while continuing to be owned and operated on the same land and by the same family that started it. The property, including the fields and architectural aspects, represent this adaptation and growth. Rendleman Orchards has significance locally, as a representation of a Southern Illinois family farm that has persisted and contributed to the economic growth of the county and State, and as a representation of a late nineteenth century family farm that has adapted to national trends, struggles, and changes affecting the national agricultural landscape. The period of significance of this property begins in 1873, when the original farm parcel was purchased, through 1975, the 50-year cut off for significance for the National Register. The orchard includes 34 contributing buildings and structures, and 8 non-contributing buildings and retains sufficient integrity for listing on the National Register of Historic Places.

Narrative Statement of Significance (Provide at least one paragraph for each area of significance.)

History of Union County, Illinois

Union County is located in far southern Illinois, bordered to the north by Jackson and Williamson Counties, to the east by Johnson County, to the south by Pulaski and Alexander Counties, and to the west by the Mississippi River. While dense forests made early Euro-American settlement in the county a challenge, people were drawn to the area due to easily navigable waterways and the fact that Native Americans were driven out of the southern part of the state earlier than the more northern counties. The first recorded Euro-American settlers in what would become Union County, Abram Hunsaker and George Wolf, arrived with their families in 1803.⁶

Settlers continued to come to the area, primarily from Virginia and the Carolinas. Jonesboro Township, comprised of present-day Union, Pulaski, Alexander, and part of Johnson counties, was officially created by the Illinois State Legislature in 1812. The present boundaries of Union County were established in 1818. The county continued to experience growth, mostly because of the mild climate, which lent itself to food production. Settlers from further north quickly realized that they could travel to the southern part of the state to buy food, especially when the weather turned cold.⁷ This, coupled with the proximity of the Mississippi River, played a part in the area gaining the name "Little Egypt", based on the Biblical story of Jacob traveling to Egypt for grain during a drought. The ease of travel and ideal growing conditions led to further increase in population and production in the area.⁸

⁶ Lulu Leonard, *The History of Union County* (Urbana: University of Illinois, 1941), 2.

⁷ Ibid, p. 7.

⁸ "Illinois' Little Egypt," Mississippi Valley Traveler, accessed June 4, 2024, <https://mississippivalleytraveler.com/illinois-little-egypt/>.

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The population of the county grew steadily over the next two decades, and by 1835 Union County had a population of 4,147. The town of Jonesboro - the county seat - contained several small shops. Most business and industry were related to agriculture. The first steam powered flour mill opened in the county in 1838, and flour became a leading export.⁹ The raising of livestock was also an important industry. The first newspaper in Union County was printed in 1849, and the railroad arrived in 1850.¹⁰

The arrival of new methods of transportation marked a huge change for Union County. From the early nineteenth century, settlement in the county had been primarily in the west due to the proximity to the Mississippi River. The construction of the Illinois Central Railroad - completed in 1853 - and the addition of a plank road allowed easier movement of both people and goods, opening up the rest of the county for settlement. With more space for settlement becoming accessible, people began to arrive not just from southern locations, but also further east and northeast. With more people came the introduction of new methods of agriculture, an increase in production, and an increase in business. This, in turn, led to the establishment of new towns, and Union County quickly became a hub of activity in Southern Illinois.¹¹

The population continued to increase, as did agriculture and manufacturing. Union County became a leader in construction materials after the Civil War. The population kept growing until around 1890, when a slow decline began and continued through the early part of the twentieth century. Union County has remained primarily agricultural throughout the twentieth century and into the twenty-first.

Criterion A - Agriculture and Commerce

Agricultural business in Union County

From the beginning, agriculture has played an important part in the development and continued success of Union County. The location of the county is ideal, protected from much of the cold temperatures by the spur of the Ozarks that crosses Illinois. The soil stays warm year round, and the area avoids much of the winter snow that hits the state further north. While the majority of the state focused on growing corn, oats, wheat and beans, the soils found in the most southern parts of Illinois were not suitable to this kind of farming. Instead, settlers found that Union County was ideal for fruit growing, and fruit and vegetable farming quickly took over. The peaches coming out of Union County were said to be "superior" and the market quickly expanded for them in the northern part of the state and beyond Illinois. Agriculturalists and horticulturalists were fascinated by the quality of fruit coming out of this part of Illinois, and people flocked to the area to try their hand at being fruit farmers.¹²

In the late 1850s, the arrival of new methods of transportation in the county - specifically the newly constructed Plank Road and the Illinois Central Railroad - led to sweeping changes. The area saw a rapid increase in population, new immigration from Northeastern states, the adaptation of more scientific methods of agriculture, introduction of new crops, the sale of more products to more people, the addition of new centralized shipping

⁹ Leonard, *The History of Union County*, 20.

¹⁰ Ibid, p.29.

¹¹ Ibid, p.28.

¹² Peter Nelson, *A History Of Agriculture in Illinois with Special References to Types of Farming* (Urbana: University of Illinois, 1931), 91.

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facilities, and development of new towns.¹³ The quality of the fruit coming out of these areas caused land prices to increase, but this did not deter those who wanted to try their hand at it. In 1858, regular shipments of fruit were going out to Chicago, and by 1866 special trains ran daily to Chicago, from leading area fruit growers including George Snyder, J.J. Keith, Jacob Rendleman, and H. Freeman.¹⁴ Around 1870, Illinois' agricultural production area lines shifted to emphasize the importance of fruit growing in the southernmost counties.¹⁵ By 1880, refrigerated cars for trains were being used, and by 1883 cooling houses and shipping points had been established in the towns of Anna and Cobden. In addition, this time saw the establishment of the Cobden Fruit Grower's Association, which was organized in part to help with affordable transport and delivery of fruit.

Fruit as a crop was first reported in the Illinois Agricultural Census in 1900, with apples as number one in the state, followed by peaches at number two.¹⁶ Union County and the surrounding area reported 1/3 of the apple and peach trees in Illinois.¹⁷ Union County has always been the most important center of peach production in Illinois; in the years 1924-27, 55% of the total volume of peaches shipped were from Union, Jackson, Pulaski, and Johnson Counties.¹⁸

As the twentieth century dawned, the number of people growing fruit began to decline, but the value of the fruit continued to increase for those that could do it successfully. Fruit enterprises in Southern Illinois required relatively more agricultural workers than other crops, due to the delicate nature of harvesting and preserving the quality of the fruit.¹⁹ This made fruit growing a more expensive endeavor than more traditional grain farming and, while the product itself was valuable, it could be difficult for farmers to pay the workers they needed for harvest. A 1925 survey indicated that 77 percent of peach trees in commercial areas of Southern Illinois were set in 1920 or later; that number began to significantly decrease between 1925-1930.²⁰ By 1929, less than one percent of land in harvested crops was in orchards - apples and peaches made up the top two. The value of fruit was less than three percent the value of all crops in Illinois, but in commercial fruit areas the value of fruit was 40-60 percent the value of all other crops.²¹ Approximately 50 percent of the fruit trees that existed in 1880 were gone by 1930. However, this time also saw a continued rise in more specialized orchards. As the century progressed, technological advances such as better pest control, advancement of cold storage, changes in irrigation, and the development of a national road system allowed for better orchard management. "The Progressive Era brought regulatory challenges for growers and the Great Depression brought economic hardship, both resulting in greater cooperation between growers through the development of growers' cooperatives and marketing commissions."²²

Southern Illinois was no exception to the struggles of the Depression, but the community worked together to keep themselves afloat. In 1933, the WH Bishop Horse and Mule Auction was established and attracted buyers

¹³ Leonard, *The History of Union County*, 43.

¹⁴ Ibid, p.80.

¹⁵ Nelson, *A History Of Agriculture in Illinois with Special References to Types of Farming*, 91.

¹⁶ C.M. Case and K.H. Myers, *Types of Farming in Illinois: An Analysis of Differences by Areas* (Urbana: University of Illinois, 1936), 100.

¹⁷ Ibid, p.156.

¹⁸ Nelson, *A History Of Agriculture in Illinois with Special References to Types of Farming*, 156.

¹⁹ Ibid, p.119.

²⁰ Ibid, p.141.

²¹ Ibid, p.118.

²² Susan Dolan, *Fruitful Legacy - A Historic Context of Orchards in the United States, with Technical Information for Registering Orchards in the National Register of Historic Places*. (Washington D.C.:NPS, 2009), 63.

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from all over the country, helping to bring a much-needed economic boost to the area. In 1934, area growers started the Anna Municipal Market, where farmers could bring produce to sell to brokers, and in 1935, the Cobden Market and the People's Fruit and Vegetable Shippers Association was established, with Frank Rendleman as manager.²³

The winters of 1949-1950 and 1950-1951 created additional challenges for farmers in the region; both years experienced dramatically cold conditions, leading to significant crop loss.²⁴ For the next decade, peach production levels continued to decrease, but levelled off in the 1960s.²⁵ Generally speaking, peach numbers have continued to be highest in this area of Illinois, but low when compared with other states. Economic changes in the later decades of the twentieth century led to more growers selling off property and switching to less expensive and less labor-intensive practices. Peaches are still a staple of Southern Illinois fruit growing, with the majority being produced by two large orchards, Rendleman Orchard, Inc. in Alto Pass and Flamm Orchards in Cobden; together they account for over 2000 acres of peach and apple farming in Union County.

Orchards in the United States - Late Nineteenth and Early Twentieth Centuries

The period from the late nineteenth through the middle twentieth centuries is characterized by the evolution of orchards from family-run farm endeavors to large scale professional businesses. This period saw the development of the complexity of orchards and orchard management, advancement of scientific development, a decrease in the diversity of fruit varieties grown, a standardization of the industry, and the slow loss of the small family orchards.²⁶

When U.S. Department of Agriculture was founded in 1870, it was the first time there was national regulation of the way food was produced, handled, and transported. Scientific advancements in the late nineteenth century helped lead to the discovery of the cause of fireblight - a devastating disease that affected multiple varieties of orchard trees - by scientists at the University of Illinois.²⁷ In 1879, the first documented use of insecticide in an apple orchard occurred, and by the early 1880s the federal government had formally begun to control development of pesticides. The first commercial fungicide was developed in France in 1882 and approved by the USDA in 1885. In 1887, Congress approved the Hatch Act which allowed for the establishment of Agricultural Experimentation Stations throughout the country.²⁸

Another trend seen in the late nineteenth and early twentieth centuries was a movement towards and standardization of new varieties of fruits. This was notably different in peach orchards, which maintained more diversity throughout the 1900s. Peaches, by nature, are more perishable than fruits such as apples and pears, they have a faster and shorter lifespan, and a greater tendency to hybridize. These factors lead to a need for more varieties that would help to extend the season, a dependance on a local market, and a reliance on the canning industry. At the turn of the twentieth century, peaches could be found growing in 75 percent of the

²³ Leonard, *The History of Union County*, 92.

²⁴ R.C. Ross and H.C.M. Case, *Types of Farming in Illinois*. (Urbana: University of Illinois, 1936), 143.

²⁵ David Changnon, Mike Sandstrom, and Stanley A. Changnon, Jr. "Unusual Spring 2007 Weather Conditions Destroy Illinois Peach Crop". *Transactions of the Illinois State Academy of Science*, Vol. 100. 2007. 229.

²⁶ Dolan, *Fruitful Legacy - A Historic Context of Orchards in the United States, with Technical Information for Registering Orchards in the National Register of Historic Places*, 63.

²⁷ Ibid, p.63-65.

²⁸ Ibid, p.66.

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country, and the Elberta peach was the dominant variety throughout the country. Local varieties also remained popular since these helped to extend the Elberta season and were of good quality even when shipped. Even by 1930, Elberta was still the most popular freestone variety of peach in the country.²⁹

Other changes in orchard management included the adoption of more dwarf varieties of trees, these having lower heads and shorter trucks. Along with this came new pruning techniques. In addition, orchard layouts changed to accommodate the space needed for tractors to navigate and turn around. Irrigation also saw advancements and became more standardized.³⁰ The USDA implemented standards for fruit cleanliness, grading for size and quality, and quarantine rules. By 1926, fruit was required to be washed, which led to more expenses for growers. This and other factors helped to change the face of fruit farming and resulted in more farmers choosing to send fruit to co-ops and central processing facilities rather than cleaning and packing on the farm. By the 1930s, on-farm packing sheds were becoming obsolete.³¹

The 1930s also saw the US thrust into the depths of the Great Depression. Orchards were not immune from its effects and this, combined with Dust Bowl conditions, mean that many small orchards did not survive to the middle twentieth century. Across the US, more than 200,000 farms were abandoned or destroyed during this time. Those that did manage to make it through, and then survived the uncertainty of a second World War, had to adapt to the rapid advancements in technology and increase in demand and consumerism that came in the second half of the twentieth century. The industry continued a trend towards standardization and over time, small family orchards were pushed out by larger commercial operations.³²

Orchard Development in Illinois

In 1893, Chicago played host to the World's Fair. In addition to the many exhibits touting Illinois' place in the advancing technologies of the late nineteenth century, the agricultural importance of the state was also on display. Illinois, known for its rich prairie soils, has been a powerhouse of crop production from the time of the first European farmers. The Executive Board of the Illinois State Horticultural Society, as part of the Illinois Horticulture exhibition, said of Illinois, "Illinois is so situated that she must ere long take the front rank among the states as a producer of manufactured goods and when that time comes the value of agricultural products, of stock, of the dairy, of her mines and fruit farms will equal in combined value, if not exceed, those of an of the other states."³³

Southern Illinois in particular was an excellent place for orchards and vineyards. Not only were the soils ideal for fruit production, but the Wabash and Mississippi Rivers provided routes for distribution. "At one time Alton, situated twenty miles above St. Louis, was the most favored spot in the West for fruit and market gardening..."³⁴ The abundance of shipping options led to more growth, and the introduction of more growers meant that the cost of shipping could be spread around to more people, leading to further opportunities for growth. Additionally, as

²⁹ Ibid, p.82.

³⁰ Ibid, p.86, 90.

³¹ Ibid, p.96-97.

³² Ibid, p.101-109.

³³ Henry M. Dunlap, ed, *Report of the Illinois Horticultural Board of Control Having in Charge the Fruit Exhibit of the State in the National Horticultural Building at the World's Columbian Exposition*. (Bloomington: Pantagraph Printing and Stationery Co., 1893), 13.

³⁴ Ibid, p.14.

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Chicago continued to grow, so did the demand for products. The expansion of the railways to Southern Illinois allowed for even easier means of shipping, and people flocked to the area to start their own growing enterprises, taking advantage of cheap land and an earlier fruit season than further north.³⁵

The modern agricultural landscape of Illinois plays host to a variety of crops, with the main products being soybeans, corn, and swine. In addition, Illinois is home to many other agricultural products, including cattle, wheat, oats, sorghum, hay, sheep, poultry, fruits and vegetables. Thanks to Illinois' varied climates and topography, the State is able to diversify production in a way many other places cannot. From the massive corn and soy fields of the northern part of the state, to the orchards and berry fields of Southern Illinois, the state is a testament to the variety of opportunities available to those who wish to devote their lives to agricultural pursuits. Illinois currently ranks fifth in the nation in the export of agricultural products, with \$10.6 billion worth of goods shipped out of the state to other countries. Approximately 89 percent of Illinois' cropland is considered prime farmland.³⁶ In addition to other crops, Illinois produces around 7,000 tons of peaches every year.³⁷

The Rendleman Family and the Growth of Rendleman Orchards

In 1873, 25-year-old John, son of Henry Rendleman and Mary Hess, and his wife Isabella (Keith) purchased 88 acres in northern Union County from the estate of Isabella's uncle, Cyrus Keith. The property included a small residence, and John and Isabella settled with the intention of raising chickens, cows, and corn. From 1866-1884, John and Isabella had seven children - W. A. (Autie), Frank Herbert, Maude, Lula Mae, Mamie, and Grover. James Edward, the eldest child, died at just 1 year of age. In 1870, John became involved in a farm business with his father.³⁸

Autie, Frank, Maude, and Grover continued to be involved in agriculture, with Grover and his wife Iva Zoe Rendleman-Venerable eventually taking over the business that John and his father had started. In 1906, Grover and Iva added vegetable crops on John and Isabella's land, including asparagus, rhubarb, sweet potatoes and corn, for the truck farm business. The couple also planted the first peach trees on the property; this move was inspired by Iva's family, who ran a successful fruit farm in the area. In 1912, Grover introduced the first apple trees to the farm. The land in Union County is well suited for fruit trees, and Grover's business, and land holdings, continued to grow. By the 1920s, Grover and his son Jimmy had partnered to form Rendleman and Son. At this time, many growers in the area had chosen to move away from growing peaches in favor of apples, which were in high demand. Grover and Jimmy, however, continued to focus on peaches, keeping smaller orchards of apples as a support crop.³⁹ Nationwide, the trend was a move away from orchards. "Approximately 50 percent of the fruit trees that existed in 1880 were gone by 1930, though the great paring down in the number of orchards was paralleled by a rise in specialized, commercial orchards, managed by growers rather than farmers."⁴⁰ In contrast, during this time Grover and Jimmy had grown their holdings to over 540 acres. The harvest season was

³⁵ Ibid, p.14-18.

³⁶ "Facts About Illinois Agriculture," Illinois Department of Agriculture, accessed May 13, 2025, <https://agr.illinois.gov/about/facts-about-illinois-agriculture.html>.

³⁷ "Peaches," Illinois Extension, accessed May 13, 2025, <https://eat-move-save.extension.illinois.edu/eat/illinois-grown/peaches>.

³⁸ Rendleman Orchards. "About Us". Electronic document: <https://rendlemanorchards.com/>, accessed 6 January 2025.

³⁹ Ibid.

⁴⁰ National Park Service. "Orchard History: Orchard Specialization and Industrialization, 1881-1945", accessed January 6, 2025, <https://www.nps.gov/articles/000/historic-context-orchards-1881-to-1945.htm>.

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approximately two weeks long, since there were only two varieties of peaches being grown. All fruit was harvested by hand and the work required approximately 200 laborers. Workers would typically include local families as well as those who traveled from areas such as Southeastern Missouri to help with the harvest. In addition, extended members of the Rendleman family would come to the farm to help. These families would stay in temporary tent cities during harvest time, and then move on after to wherever they could find more work.

During the Great Depression, Grover and Jimmy continued growing fruit but had to find other ways to bring in money. In 1933, Grover added the breeding and selling of mules to his business. Already a seasoned expert in mules, and a well-respected judge for the county fairs in the area, it was a logical addition to the farm. The family raised tobacco mules, which are a smaller breed suited for working on farms. Grover preferred to barter when possible. It is likely that this decision kept the family and business afloat through the Depression. Rendleman and Son continued to grow through the 1930s and 40s. After World War II, mules generally fell out of use as they were replaced by tractors and other machinery, so Grover and Jimmy turned their focus back to fruit farming. In 1946, Grover's son-in-law died, and his daughter Helen moved back to the farm with her five children. In the 1950s, Jimmy added a Meyers Spray Dealership to the business.⁴¹

Beginning in the late 1950s, major advancements in agriculture were introduced. By this time, Wayne "Ren" Rendleman-Sirles, Helen's youngest son, had graduated college and returned to the farm, and he was eager to take advantage of new opportunities. One very significant change that occurred was in new peach varieties. The Elberta peach, considered the standard for fruit growers in the area, was phased out for different kinds of peaches with better color and flavor. The addition of these new varieties also helped to extend the growing season (Elberta, along with another traditional variety called Georgia Bell, had a two-week season), and allowed more consistent employment for migrant workers who traveled to the area for seasonal jobs. As the harvest season grew longer, housing needs changed. The Rendleman family utilized old log cabins on the property to house workers and their families. The Rendlemans built very small seasonal worker housing that was typically meant to be used from late spring through fall. Dorm style housing was also built for men coming to work for the season without their families.

The family also added another 191 acres to the property and introduced new apple varieties. Growing demand for these varieties led the family to move away from the more traditional cooking apples (including varieties such as Transparent, Wealthy, Morehouse), to the newly popular Red Delicious. The 1960s also saw the addition of new technology, such as an apple grader, a hydro-cooling cold storage facility, forklifts, and bulk bins. As important as the addition of this new technology was to the business, so too was the accessibility to farm laborers, as most of the harvesting still needed to be done by hand.⁴² By the 1970s, the workforce had again evolved to include primarily families of Hispanic descent. These changes reflect the movement in populations and the transformations occurring in the agricultural workforce nationwide.

Grover died in 1968, and Jimmy and Ren became business partners. At this time Rendleman and Son was one of the largest peach growers in the state. It was also at this time that Helen took a more prominent role in the business and worked as the bookkeeper, while Ren's wife Betty became a full-time crew boss.⁴³

⁴¹ Rendleman Orchards. "About Us".

⁴² Ibid.

⁴³ Ibid.

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When James passed suddenly in 1979, Ren and Betty took over the business. In 1980, Rendleman and Son became Rendleman Orchards, Inc. Since then, the farm holdings have expanded to over 800 acres, with much of the additional land purchased from neighboring farms that couldn't survive. Most of the farmable land was put into peaches and nectarines. Ren and Betty formed a co-op in the 1980s that focused on marketing apples for juicing and processing.⁴⁴

In 1990, Ren and Betty's son Wayne joined the family business. Vegetables, which had not been planted for most of the 20th century, were reintroduced to the farm business, which allowed for diversification and extension of the growing season and helped to satisfy seasonal labor demands. The extent of the peach orchards also continued to expand. In the late 1990s, the addition of a computerized packing line and enhanced packing shed allowed for more accurate grading, which was important as the demand for products extended to more commercial areas. The demand for specialty items and farm-related experiences increased at the beginning of the twenty-first century. As a result, in 2002, Rendleman Orchards, Inc. opened a Farm Market on their property. They also became food safety and traceability certified. In 2014, Wayne's wife Michelle joined the business full-time. Michelle's involvement allowed the family to add to their product offerings and on-farm experiences, including multiple you-pick flower fields (sunflowers, zinnias, cosmos, and mums), as well as a pumpkin patch. Recent trends in agricultural innovation have moved towards no-till farming, and this practice has been adopted by the business. In addition, Rendleman Orchards, Inc. participates in the H2A, which is a government program that allows businesses to hire foreign nationals for agricultural work; even with the adaptation of many technological changes throughout the twentieth century, much of the harvesting must be done by hand because of the delicate nature of the fruit, which requires a large workforce. All of the orchard's H-2A harvest workers live in the dorm style housing and typically stay for around four months. Rendleman Orchards now focuses on both the local Farm Market retail store and a growing wholesale base. As of 2024, Rendleman Orchards, Inc. offered 13 varieties of peaches, three varieties of nectarines, and 12 varieties of apples.⁴⁵

A Brief Comparison - Other Southern Illinois Orchards

As a result of both an ideal climate and rich soils, Southern Illinois became a destination for those families looking to settle and start a fruit business in the middle to late nineteenth century. Demand from Chicago and other cities for fresh fruit drove the growth, slowed only by the Great Depression. Even after this, business continued to grow in the south. By the middle twentieth century, Southern Illinois was covered in small family orchards.

Established in 1888 by Leonhard and Theresa Flamm, Flamm Orchards in Cobden is the only other multi-generational orchard in Southern Illinois that is comparable to Rendleman Orchards in size and scale. Flamms, who started with 117 acres, now owns and operates around 2000 acres. Originally primarily apple and peach growers, Flamms now focuses on vegetables as a wholesale business. Like Rendlemans, Flamms is a fifth-generation family business that sells both wholesale and retail products from their orchard location, but over time they have diversified to fill other consumer demands.⁴⁶

Unfortunately, because of economic stress in the later twentieth century, many of the smaller orchard businesses began to fail. The Rendleman and Flamm families bought up many of these smaller farms. As of this writing,

⁴⁴ Ibid.⁴⁵ Ibid.⁴⁶ "Home," Flamm Orchards, accessed May 13, 2025, <https://flammorchards.com/>.

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there are numerous small fruit operations and seasonal roadside stands in the southern part of the state, but none compare in size to Rendleman or Flamm Orchards. The existing smaller businesses do not grow as many varieties and do not ship as far. Their focus tends to be on small market stands and shops, appealing to the thriving tourist industry with dining and shopping experiences. Rendleman and Flamm remain the largest wholesale producers of peaches, with Rendleman focused on fruit and agritourism, while Flamm supplements peach sales with a large vegetable operation.

Conclusion

Rendleman Orchards is eligible for listing on the NRHP under Criterion A (Agriculture and Commerce), for its associations with the growth of the fruit production and trade business in Union County. The property includes over 800 acres, including the original 88 acres purchased in 1873, and is an example of a multi-generational orchard business in Union County. The orchard includes 34 contributing buildings and structures, and six Non-Contributing buildings and retains sufficient integrity for listing on the National Register of Historic Places. This property represents a family farm that has evolved and adapted to a changing agricultural landscape, has withstood fluctuations in the national economy, and has grown to become one of the largest peach producers in Illinois.

While the period of significance of the property includes the years between 1873 - the year when the family farm was established - to 1975 - the 50-year cut-off for the National Register - Rendleman Orchards has continued to grow and evolve in the last 50 years. The 1970s and 1980s saw the growth of the business, the formation of a co-op, and the addition of parcels of land as other local families sold their farms. In the 1990s, vegetables were added and the washing and grading of fruit became more mechanized. In the 21st century, a farm market was added for retail sales, and in the last two decades, Rendleman Orchards has added agritourism to the services they offer. Rendleman Orchards expanded their retail operation to include on-farm U-pick flower field experiences in the fall of 2015 and has continued to expand on that experience every year. This has helped diversify the farm and draw a younger demographic as well as customers from further away. The building known as Uncle Autie's Seasonal Worker House, located on Uncle Autie's Property, has recently been updated and is now used as a vacation rental home with a farm immersion experience. In this way the buildings on the property continue to be repurposed and evolve with changing needs of the industry.

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Previous documentation on file (NPS):

- ☐ preliminary determination of individual listing (36 CFR 67 has been requested)
☐ previously listed in the National Register
☐ previously determined eligible by the National Register
☐ designated a National Historic Landmark
☐ recorded by Historic American Buildings Survey # _____
☐ recorded by Historic American Engineering Record # _____
☐ recorded by Historic American Landscape Survey # _____

Primary location of additional data:

- ☒ State Historic Preservation Office
☐ Other State agency
☐ Federal agency
☐ Local government
☐ University
☐ Other

Name of repository: _____

Historic Resources Survey Number (if assigned)

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10. Geographical Data**Acreage of Property** 814.98 Acres

(Do not include previously listed resource acreage; enter "Less than one" if the acreage is .99 or less)

Latitude/Longitude Coordinates

Datum if other than WGS84: _____

(enter coordinates to 6 decimal places)

1	<u>37.599649</u>	<u>-89.334077</u>	3	<u>37.580249</u>	<u>-89.305139</u>
	Latitude	Longitude		Latitude	Longitude
2	<u>37.599708</u>	<u>-89.305229</u>	4	<u>37.580229</u>	<u>-89.334319</u>
	Latitude	Longitude		Latitude	Longitude

Verbal Boundary Description (Describe the boundaries of the property.)

See accompanying map

Boundary Justification (Explain why the boundaries were selected.)

The boundary includes the entire current (2025) land holdings of Rendleman Orchards. This land includes land acquired beginning in 1873 and encompasses all buildings and structures as well as all orchard and other agricultural land.

11. Form Prepared Byname/title Marcy Prchal date 11/23/2024organization _____ telephone 815-683-8997street & number 11577 Poplar Grove Road email marcyprrchal@gmail.comcity or town Poplar Grove state IL zip code 61065

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Additional Documentation

Submit the following items with the completed form:

- **GIS Location Map (Google Earth or BING)**
- **Local Location Map**
- **Site Plan**
- **Floor Plans (As Applicable)**
- **Photo Location Map** (Include for historic districts and properties having large acreage or numerous resources. Key all photographs to this map and insert immediately after the photo log and before the list of figures).

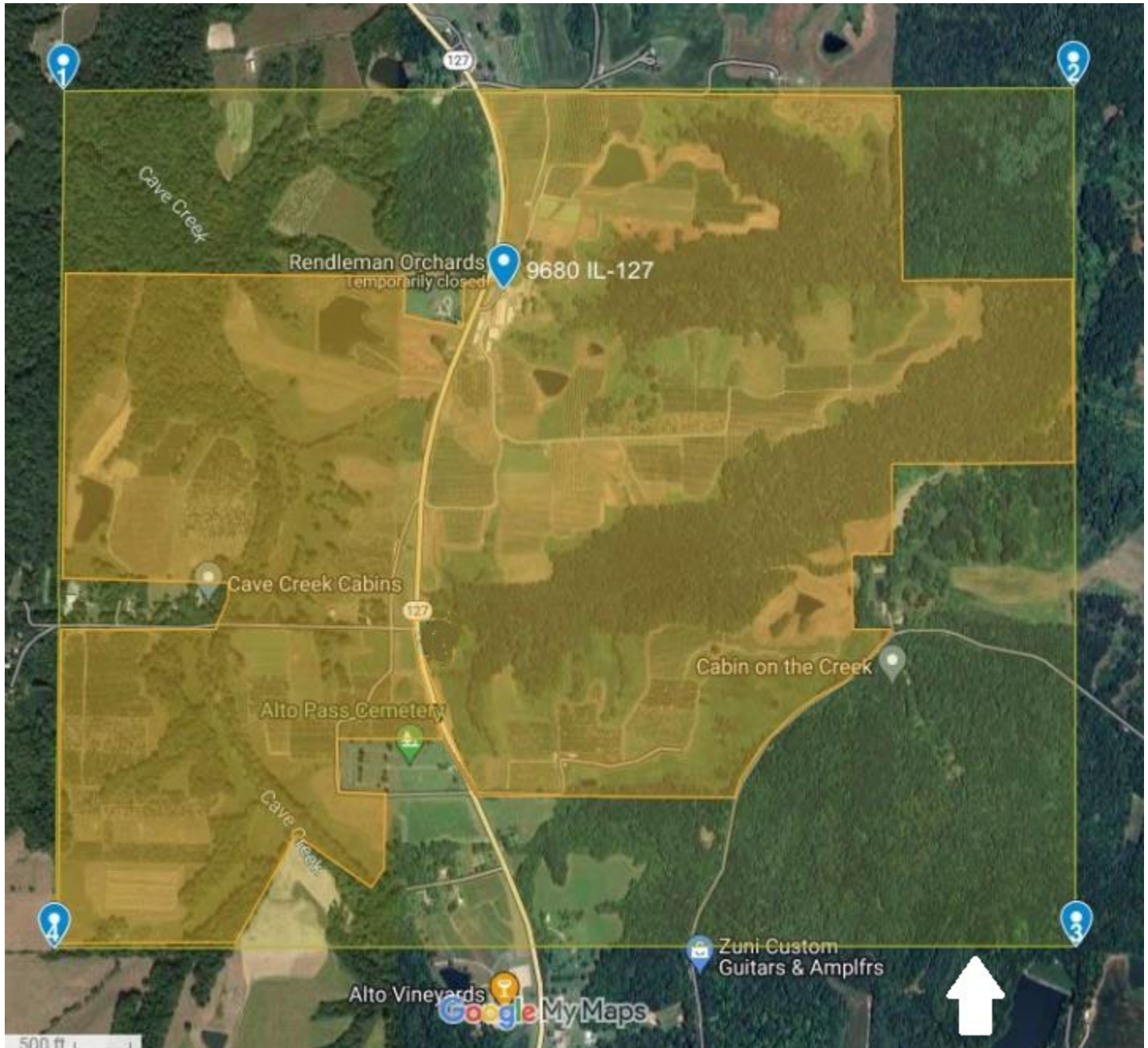
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GIS Location Map: Rendleman Orchards (Google Maps, 2024)



Property is outlined in orange

1. Lat: 37°35'58.74"N Long: 89°20'2.69"W
2. Lat: 37°35'58.96"N Long: 89°18'18.83"W
3. Lat: 37°34'48.90"N Long: 89°18'18.50"W
4. Lat: 37°34'48.83"N Long: 89°20'3.55"W

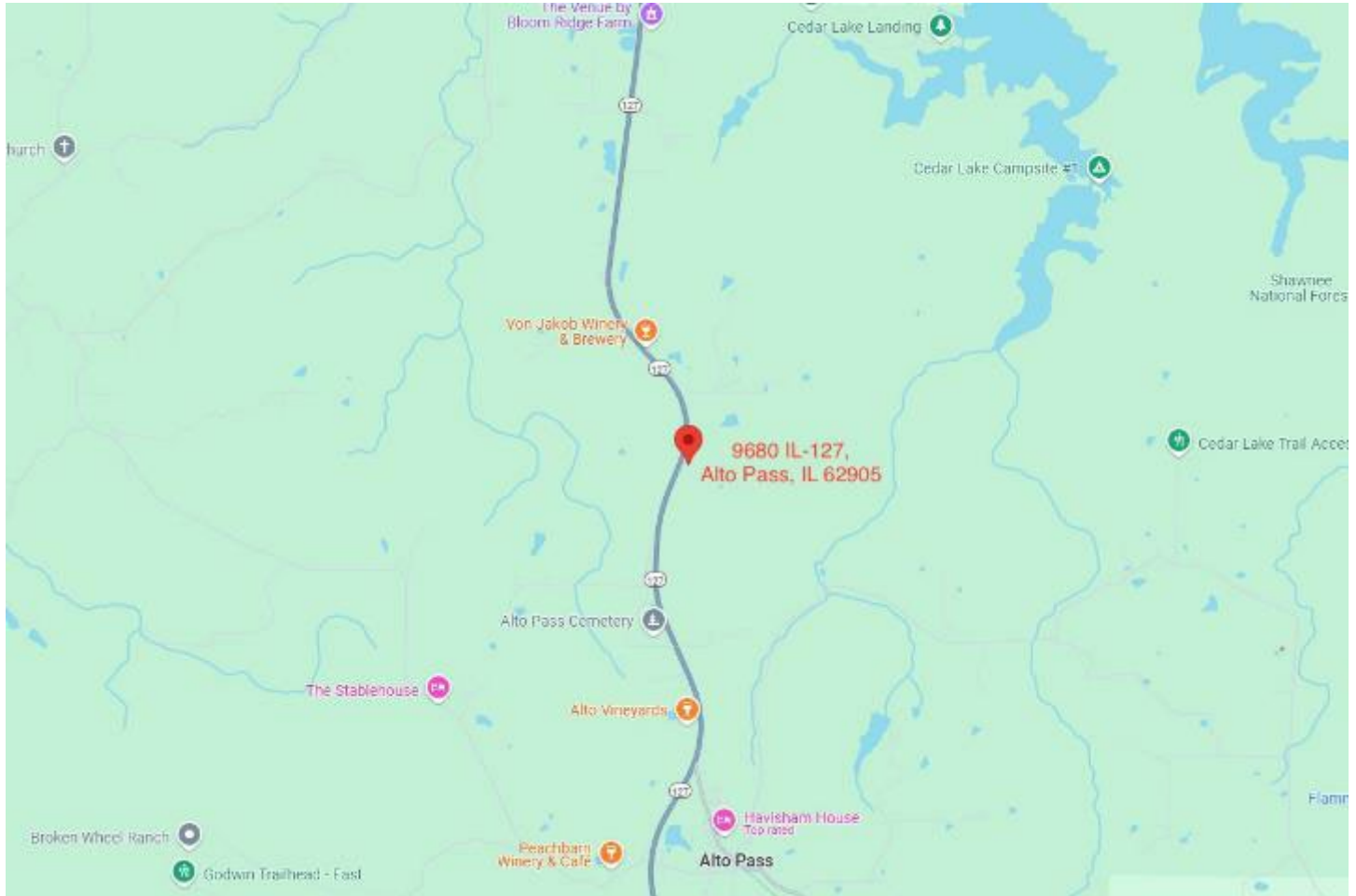
Rendleman Orchards

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Local Location Map: Rendleman Orchards (Google Maps, 2024)



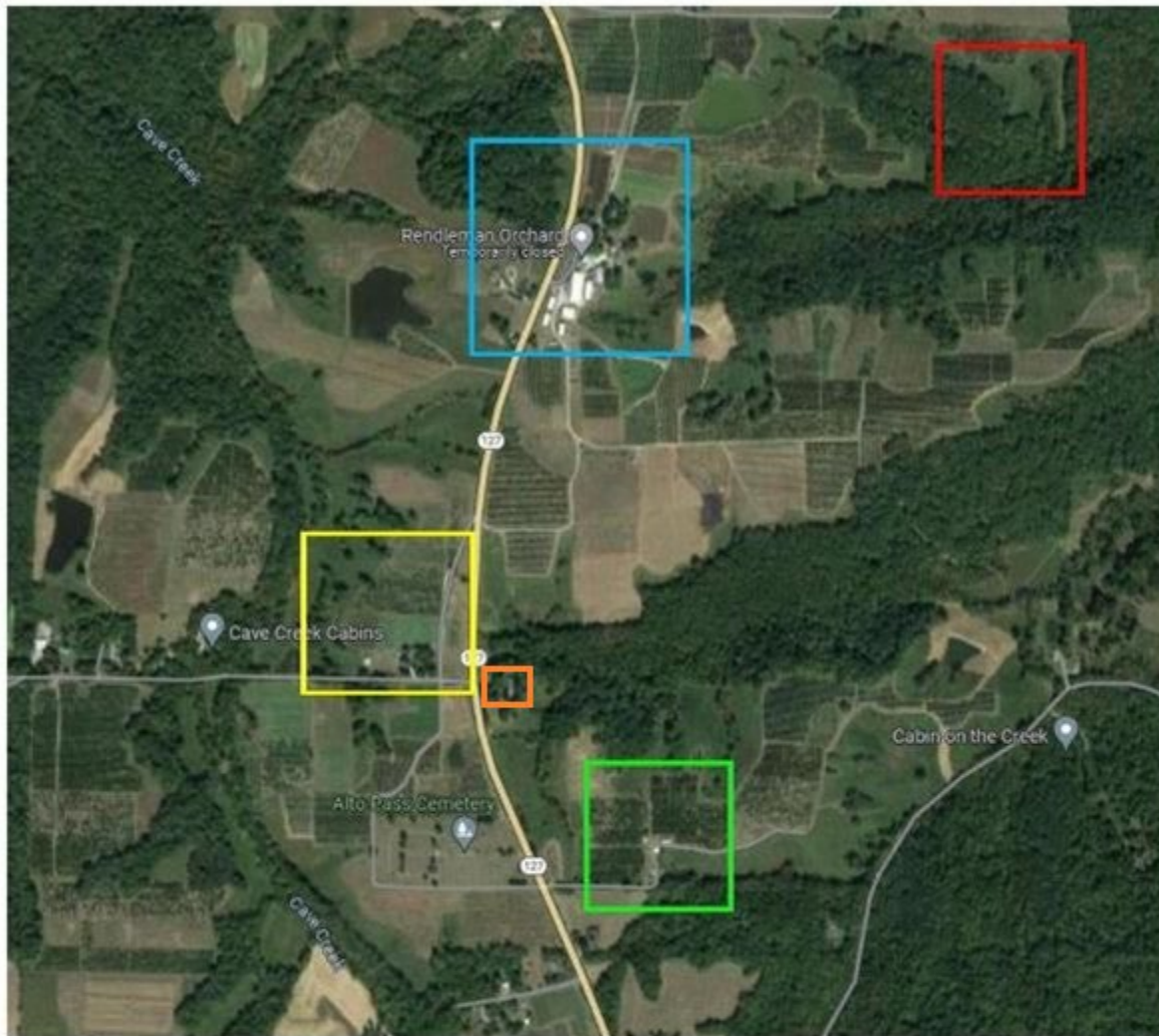
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Site Plan, Five Property Clusters Map



 Main Farm Area	 Deer Camp
 Buckingham Property	 Uncle Autie's Property
 Non-contributing property	

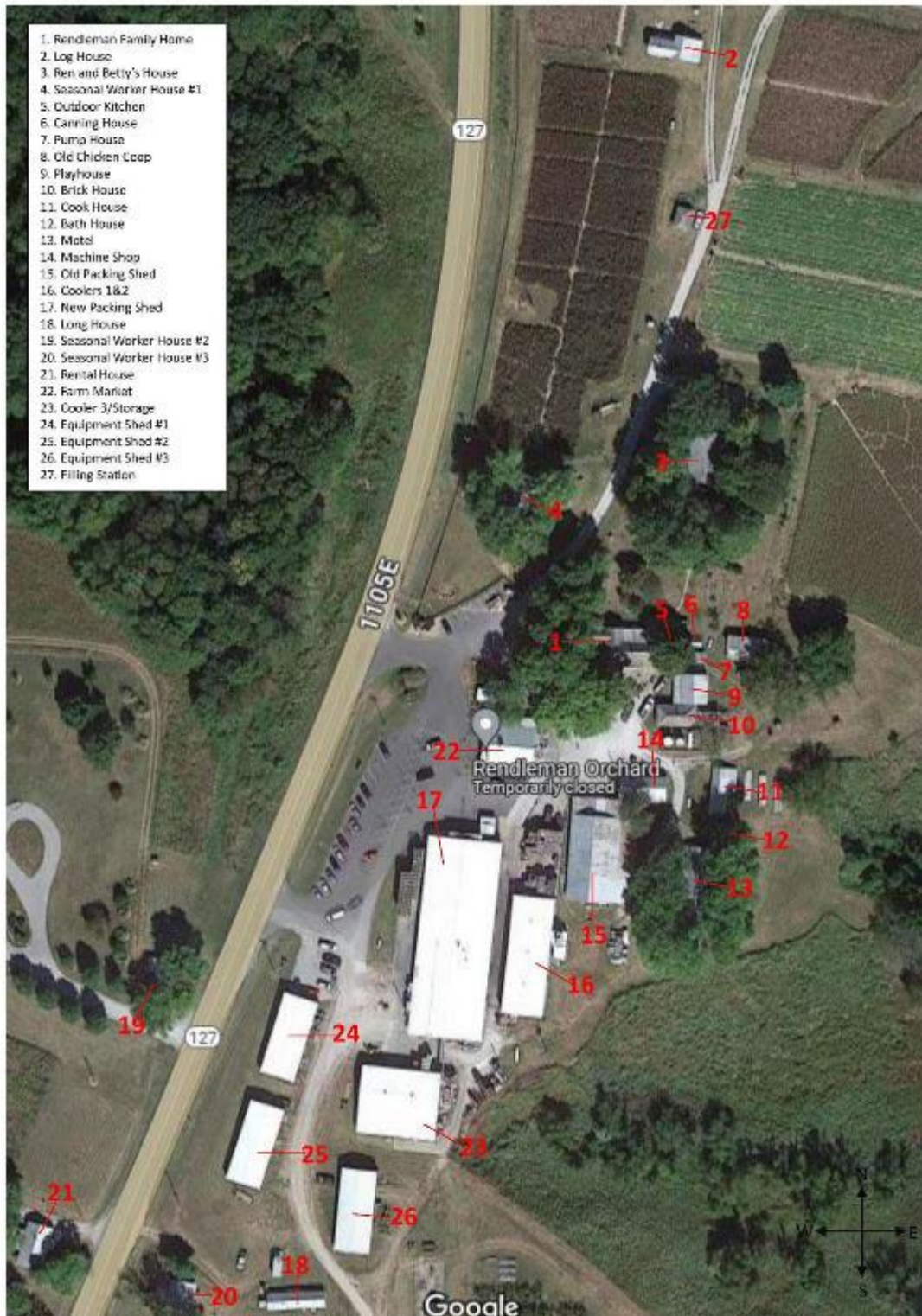
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Site Plan, Main Farm Area



Rendleman Orchards

Name of Property

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Site Plan, Buckingham Property



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Site Plan, Uncle Autie's Property



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Site Plan, Deer Camp



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Site Plan, Non-contributing Property



Ranch House



Garage

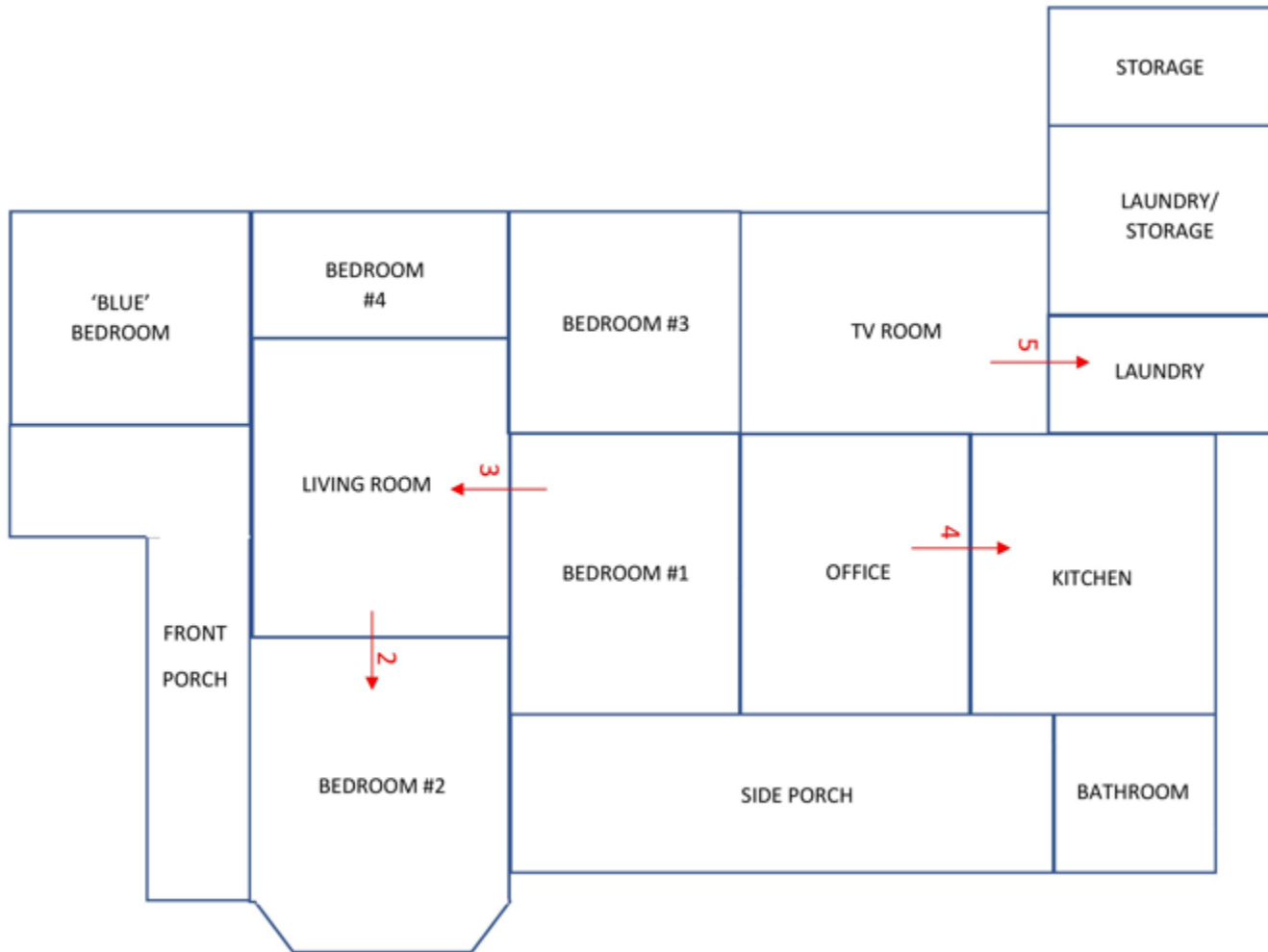
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Floor Plan: *Rendleman Family Home Floor Plan/Photo Location (2024).*



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Exterior Photo Location Map: Rendleman Orchards - Main Farm Area (2024).



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Exterior Photo Location Map: *Rendleman Orchards - Buckingham Property (2024).*



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Exterior Photo Location Map: *Rendleman Orchards - Uncle Autie's Property (2024).*



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Exterior Photo Location Map: *Rendleman Orchards - Deer Camp (2024).*



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List of Figures

(Resize, compact, and paste images of maps and historic documents in this section. Place captions, with figure numbers above each image. Orient maps so that north is at the top of the page, all documents should be inserted with the top toward the top of the page.)

Figure 1 of 9: 1881 Map of Union County showing J. Rendleman's holdings in Section 3

Figure 2 of 9: 1908 Map of Union County showing J. Rendleman's holdings in Section 3

Figure 3 of 9: Aerial Map showing approximate boundaries of Rendleman property c. 1975

Figure 4 of 9: Rendleman Family Home circa 1880

Figure 5 of 9: Rendleman Family Home circa 1940

Figure 6 of 9: Old Packing Shed, circa 1941

Figure 7 of 9: Old Packing Shed, circa 1941

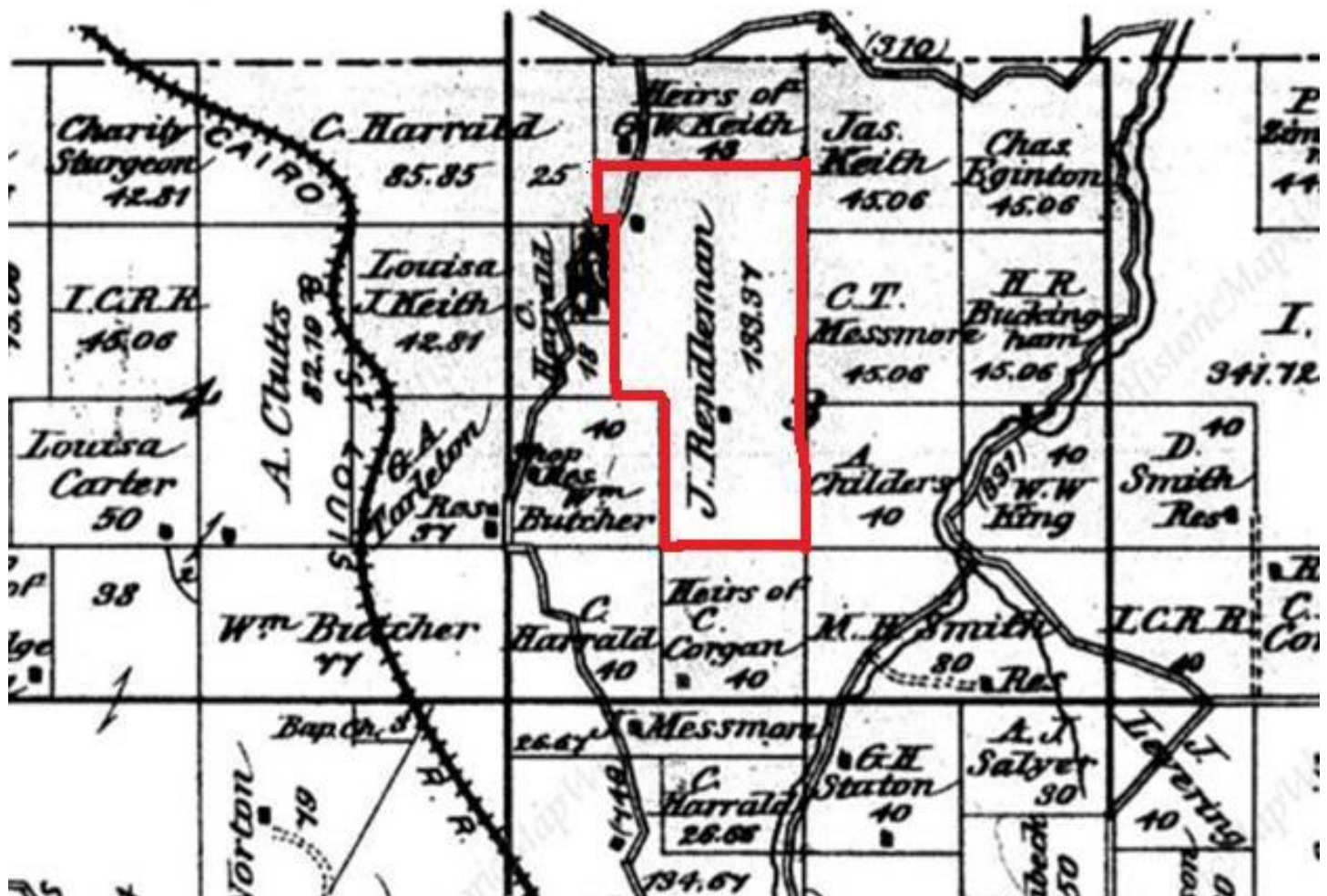
Figure 8 of 9: Old Packing Shed and other farm buildings during harvest, circa 1946

Figure 9 of 9: Mules in front of a barn, circa 1940

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Figure 1 of 9: 1881 Map of Union County showing J. Rendleman's holdings in Section 3



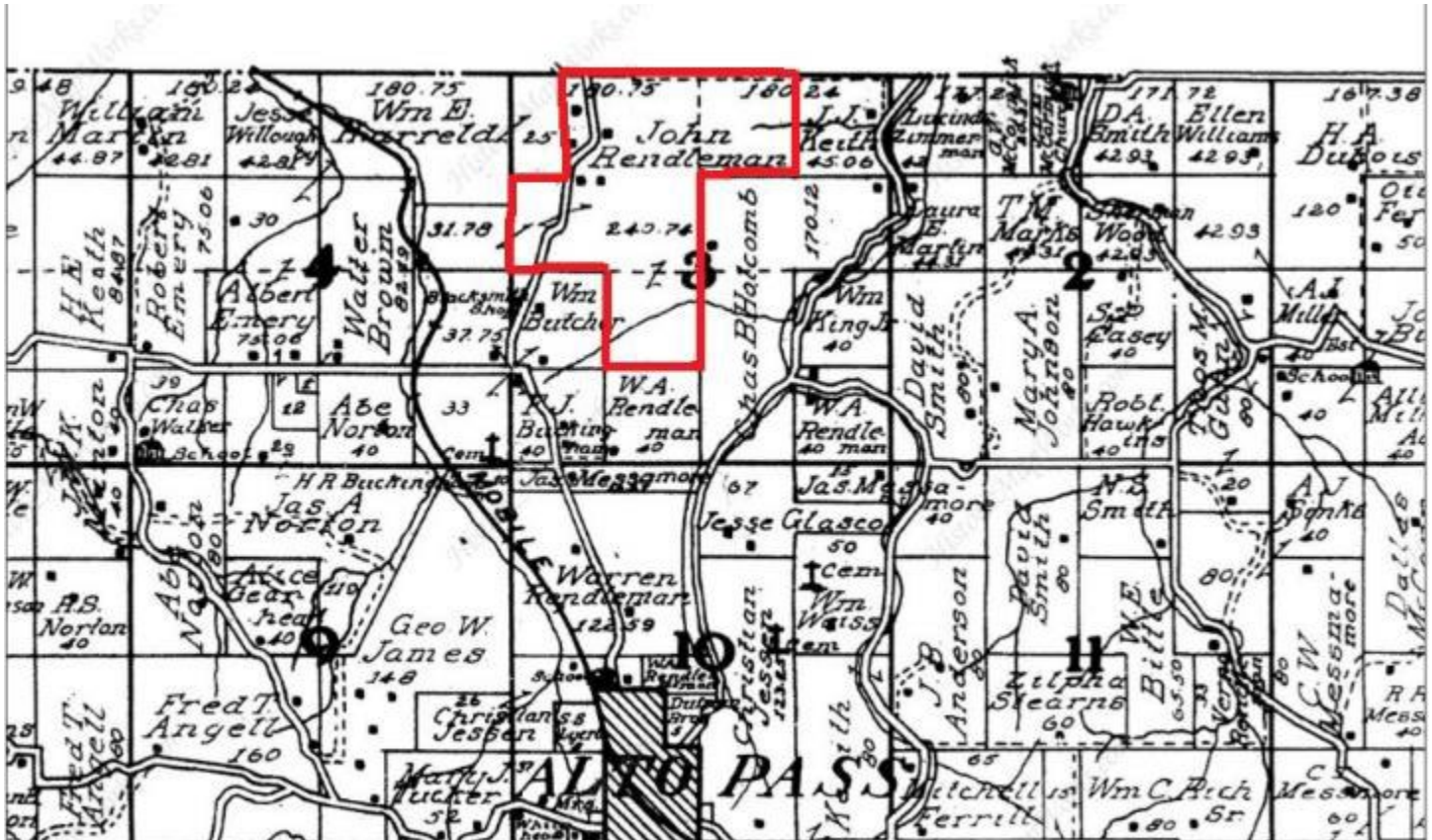
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Figure 2 of 9: 1908 Map of Union County showing J. Rendleman's holdings in Section 3



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Figure 3 of 9: Aerial Map showing approximate boundaries of Rendleman property c. 1975



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Figure 4 of 9: Rendleman Family Home circa 1880



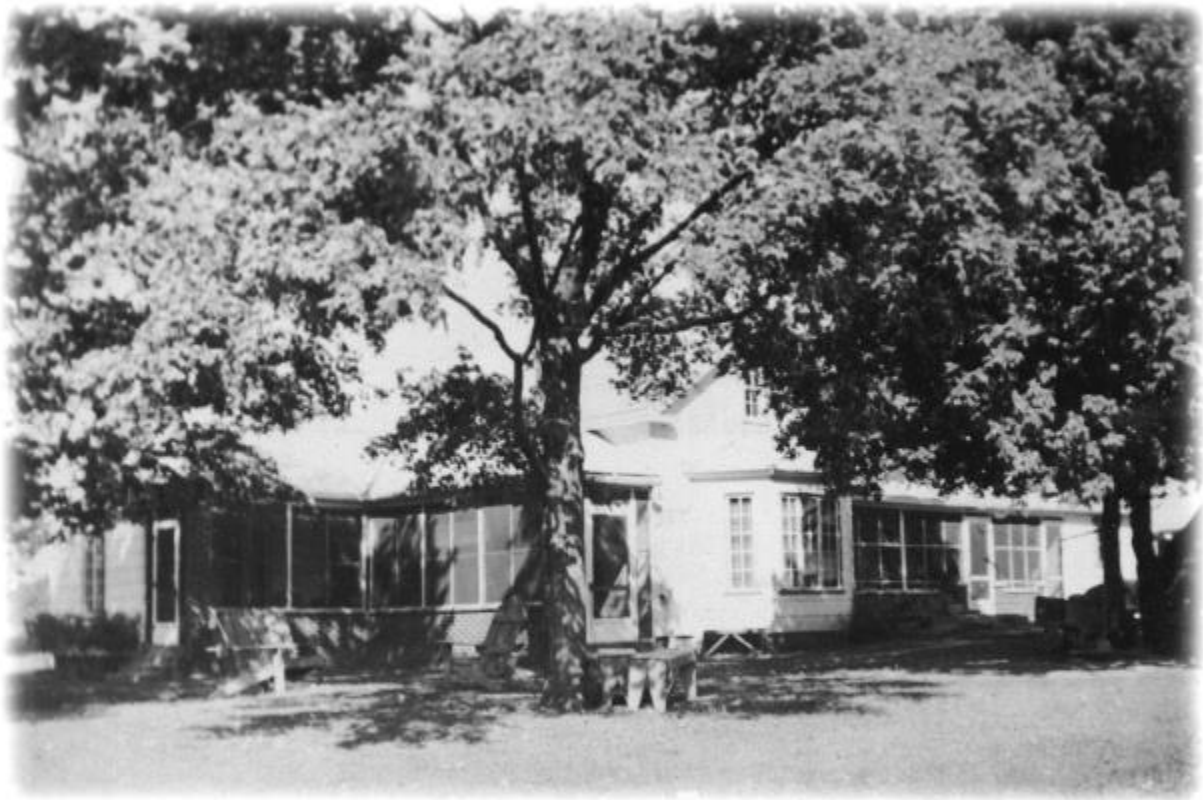
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Figure 5 of 9: Rendleman Family Home circa 1940



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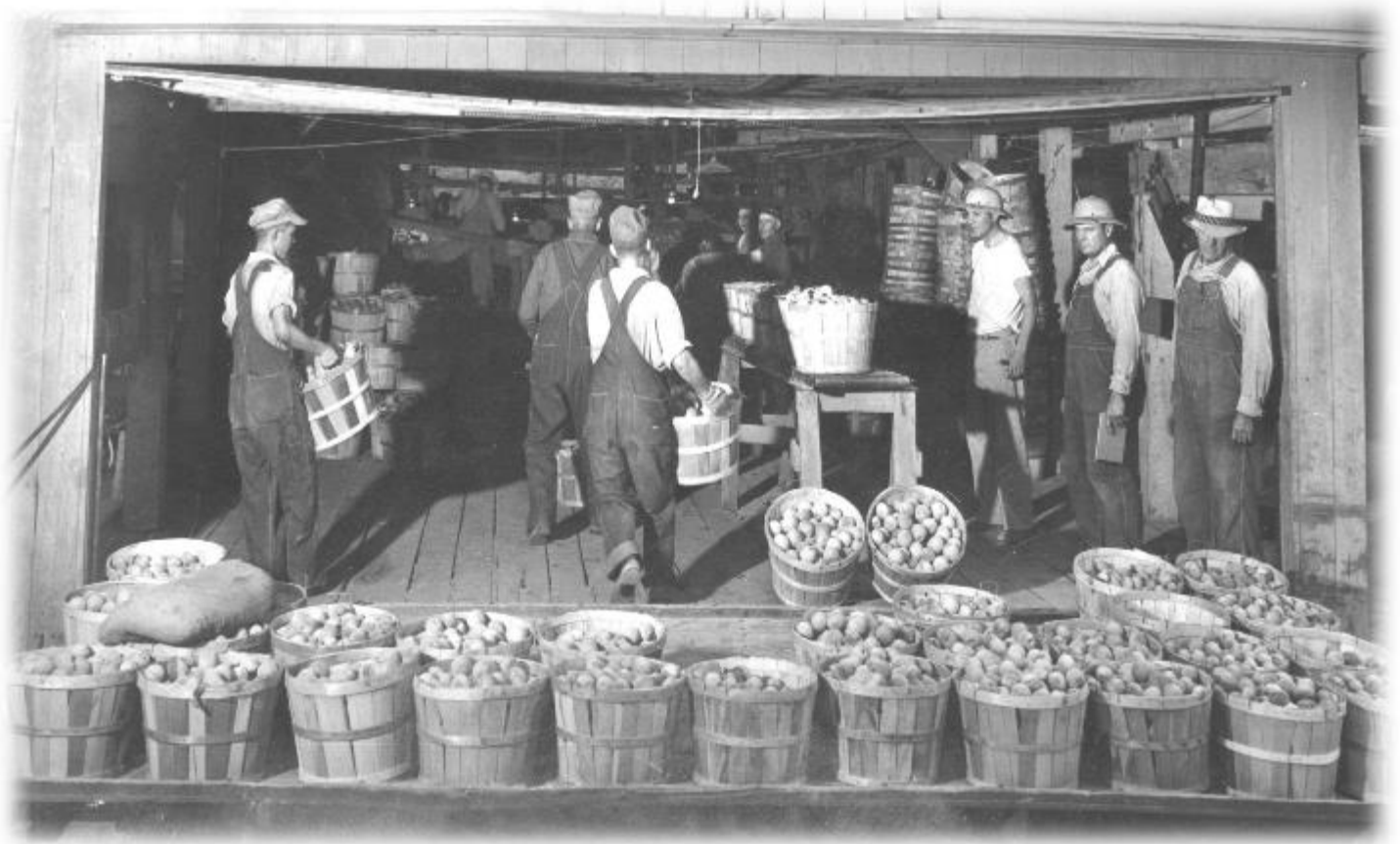
Figure 6 of 9: Old Packing Shed, circa 1941



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Figure 7 of 9: Old Packing Shed, circa 1941



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Figure 8 of 9: Old Packing Shed and other farm buildings during harvest, circa 1946



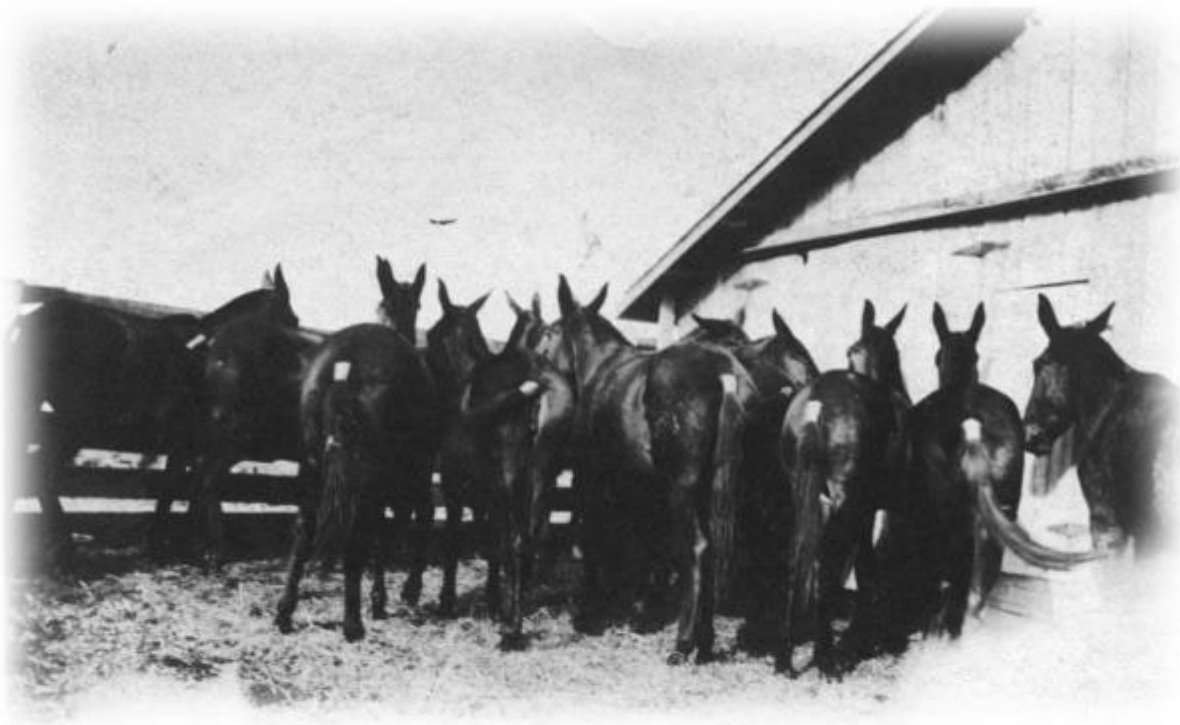
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Figure 9 of 9: Mules in front of a barn, circa 1940



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Photographs:

Submit clear and descriptive photographs. The size of each image must be 3000x2000 pixels, at 300 ppi (pixels per inch) or larger. Key all photographs to the sketch map. Each photograph must be numbered and that number must correspond to the photograph number on the photo log. For simplicity, the name of the photographer, photo date, etc. may be listed once on the photograph log and doesn't need to be labeled on every photograph.

Photo Log

Name of Property:	<u>Rendleman Orchards</u>		
City or Vicinity:	<u>Alto Pass</u>		
County:	<u>Union</u>	State:	<u>Illinois</u>
Photographer:	<u>Michelle Sirles & Arianna Escue</u>		
Date Photographed:	<u>March 2022 - May 2023</u>		

Description of Photograph(s) and number, include description of view indicating direction of camera:

1. Rendleman Family Home (1), front west facade facing east.
2. Rendleman Family Home (1), Bedroom 2 facing south.
3. Rendleman Family Home (1), Living Room facing north.
4. Rendleman Family Home (1), Kitchen facing west.
5. Rendleman Family Home (1), Laundry room facing north.
6. Log House (2), north facade facing southeast.
7. Log House (2), north facade log detail facing south.
8. Ren and Betty's House (3), front west facade facing east.
9. Worker House #1 (4), front south facade facing north.
10. Outdoor Kitchen (5), facing west,
11. Canning House (6), facing south.
12. Pump House (7), facing east.
13. Old Chicken Coop (8), facing east.
14. Playhouse (9), front west facade facing east.
15. Playhouse (9), Living Room facing northeast.
16. Brick House (10), front north facade facing southeast.
17. Cook House (11), facing east.
18. Bath House (12), front west facade facing east.
19. Motel (13), front west facade facing southeast.
20. Machine Shop (14), facing south.
21. Old Packing Shed (15), facing south.
22. Coolers 1&2 (16), facing southwest.
23. New Packing Shed (17), facing southwest.
24. Long House (18), front facade facing south.
25. Worker House #2 (19), front south facade facing north.
26. Worker House #3 (20), front north facade facing south.
27. Rental House (21), front east facade facing west.
28. Farm Market (22), front west facade facing east.
29. Cooler 3/Storage (23), facing southeast.
30. Equipment Shed #1 (24), facing northwest.
31. Equipment Shed #2 (25), facing west.
32. Equipment Shed #3 (26), facing east.
33. Filling Station (27), facing west.
34. Buckingham Main House (28), front south facade facing north.

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- 35. Buckingham Garage (29), front south facade facing north.
- 36. Buckingham Coop (30), facing north.
- 37. Buckingham Barn (31), front east facade facing west.
- 38. Buckingham Pump House (32), facing north.
- 39. Railroad Bed (33), facing north.
- 40. Block House (34), east and south facades facing northwest.
- 41. Uncle Autie's House (35), front north facade facing southeast.
- 42. The Doctor's House (36), front east facade facing northwest.
- 43. Pole Barn Shed (37), facing west.
- 44. Uncle Autie's Barn (38), front west facade facing southeast.
- 45. Uncle Autie's Packing Shed (39), facing east.
- 46. Sweet Potato Barn (40), front east facade facing west.
- 47. Deer Camp Cabin (41), facing west.

Photo 1 of 47: *Rendleman Family Home (1), front west facade facing east.*



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Photo 2 of 47: *Rendleman Family Home (1), Bedroom 2 facing south.*



Photo 3 of 47: *Rendleman Family Home (1), Living Room facing west.*



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Photo 4 of 47: *Rendleman Family Home (1), Kitchen facing east.*



Photo 5 of 47: *Rendleman Family Home (1), Laundry room facing east.*



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Photo 6 of 47: *Log House (2), east facade facing northwest.*



Photo 7 of 47: *Log House (2), south facade log detail facing north.*



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Photo 8 of 47: *Ren and Betty's House (3), front west facade facing northeast.*



Photo 9 of 47: *Seasonal Worker House #1 (4), front south facade facing northwest.*



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Photo 10 of 47: *Outdoor Kitchen (5), facing north.*



Photo 11 of 47: *Canning House (6), facing northeast.*



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Photo 12 of 47: *Pump House (7), facing east.*



Photo 13 of 47: *Old Chicken Coop (8), facing northeast.*



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Photo 14 of 47: *Playhouse (9), front west facade facing east.*



Photo 15 of 47: *Playhouse (9), Living Room facing southeast.*



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Photo 16 of 47: *Brick House (10), front west facade facing northeast.*



Photo 17 of 47: *Cook House (11), facing northeast.*



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Photo 18 of 47: *Bath House (12), front west facade facing east.*



Photo 19 of 47: *Motel (13), front west facade facing southeast.*



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Photo 20 of 47: *Machine Shop (14), facing southeast.*



Photo 21 of 47: *Old Packing Shed (15), facing south.*



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Photo 22 of 47: *Coolers 1&2 (16), facing northeast.*



Photo 23 of 47: *New Packing Shed (17), facing southeast.*



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Photo 24 of 47: *Long House (18), front north facade facing south.*



Photo 25 of 47: *Seasonal Worker House #2 (19), front south facade facing northeast.*



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Photo 26 of 47: *Seasonal Worker House #3 (20), front east facade facing west.*



Photo 27 of 47: *Rental House (21), front east facade facing southwest.*



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Photo 28 of 47: *Farm Market (22), front west facade facing east.*



Photo 29 of 47: *Cooler 3/Storage (23), facing northwest.*



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Photo 30 of 47: *Equipment Shed #1 (24), facing northwest.*



Photo 31 of 47: *Equipment Shed #2 (25), facing west.*



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Photo 32 of 47: *Equipment Shed #3 (26), facing northwest.*



Photo 33 of 47: *Filling Station (27), facing west.*



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Photo 34 of 47: *Buckingham Main House (28), front east facade facing west.*



Photo 35 of 47: *Buckingham Garage (29), front south facade facing northwest.*



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Photo 36 of 47: *Buckingham Coop (30), facing northwest.*



Photo 37 of 47: *Buckingham Barn (31), front east facade facing west.*



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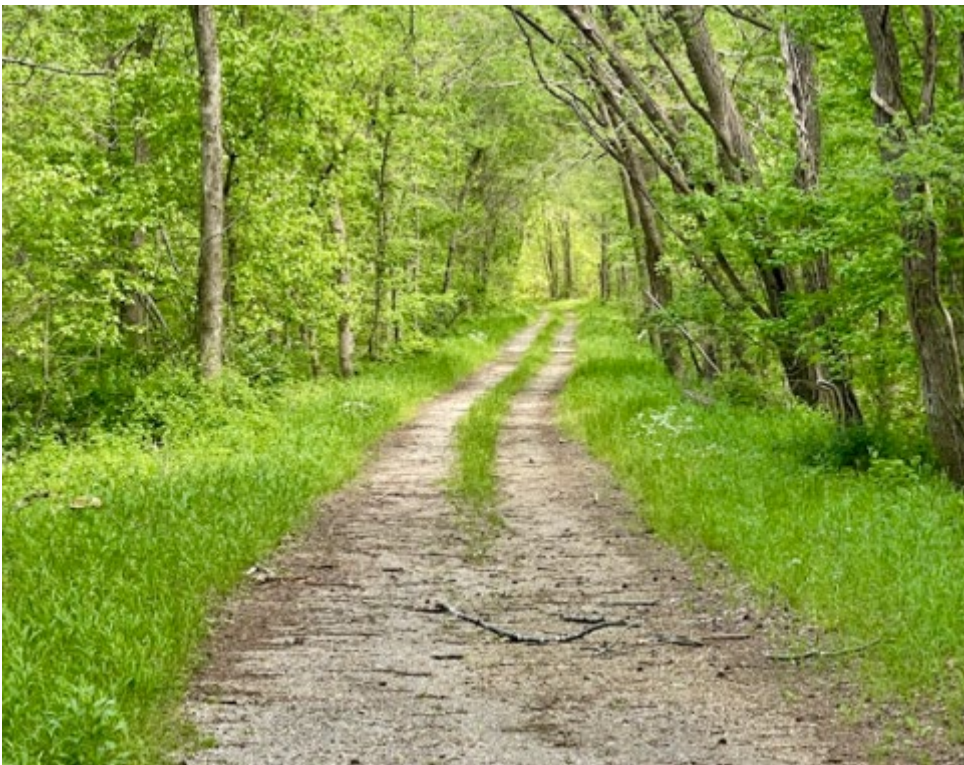
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Photo 38 of 47: *Buckingham Pump House (32), facing northwest.*



Photo 39 of 47: *Railroad Bed (33), facing north.*



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Photo 40 of 47: *Block House (34), west and south facades facing northeast.*



Photo 41 of 47: *Uncle Autie's Seasonal Worker House (35), front north facade facing southeast.*



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Photo 42 of 47: *The Doctor's House (36), front east facade facing northwest.*



Photo 43 of 47: *Pole Barn Shed (37), facing west.*



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Photo 44 of 47: *Uncle Autie's Barn (38), front west facade facing southeast.*



Photo 45 of 47: *Uncle Autie's Packing Shed (39), facing southeast.*



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Photo 46 of 47: *Sweet Potato Barn (40), front north facade facing south.*



Photo 47 of 47: *Deer Camp Cabin (41), facing east.*



Paperwork Reduction Act Statement: This information is being collected for applications to the National Register of Historic Places to nominate properties for listing or determine eligibility for listing, to list properties, and to amend existing listings. Response to this request is required to obtain a benefit in accordance with the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended (16 U.S.C.460 et seq.).

Estimated Burden Statement: Public reporting burden for this form is estimated to average 100 hours per response including time for reviewing instructions, gathering and maintaining data, and completing and reviewing the form. Direct comments regarding this burden estimate or any aspect of this form to the Office of Planning and Performance Management, U.S. Dept. of the Interior, 1849 C. Street, NW, Washington, DC.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

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County and State: **Union County, Illinois**

Name of multiple listing (if applicable)

Section number Additional Documentation Page 83

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Illinois, County: